

## Original Allottee passes away at the age of 101



Original Allottee California "Kelly" Fixico passed away Sunday, April 11 at Valley View Regional Hospital at the age of 101. Services were held Thursday, April 15, at Tukvpytce Church with Rev. Malcolm Tiger officiating. He was born June 2, 1902 to Lucy Kernal and Kano [Cano] Fixico on his allotment which was located west of Paden. California belonged to the Beaver Clan. Both of his parents belonged to Little River Tulsa Tribal Town. His maternal grandparents are Mary Kernal McCulla and Peter Kernal. Selusky Bear and Nokos Fixico are his paternal grandparents.

## Creek weightlifter breaks state high school record

MORRIS — In today's society, the emphasis is always placed on mental strength. Qualities such as character and fortitude are also a prerequisite in the modern world. But physical strength has always been admired.

Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Marcus Duvall of Morris High School is considered a leader of sorts and definitely receives a lot of respect from his classmates. Duvall recently set a state high school weightlifting record in the deadlift contest held at Norman North High School on March 12 of this year. He deadlifted approximately 655 pounds, breaking the old record set by another Muscogee citizen.



## Chief Ellis and his administration hold meeting with Ceremonial leaders

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis recently held a meeting to bridge the gap between the Tribal Administration and the Ceremonial Grounds. Principal Chief Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, Attorney General Montie Deere and fourteen of the sixteen remaining ceremonial grounds were in attendance.

"I have respect for the grounds and the people of the grounds," stated Ellis. "I commend them for carrying on the tradition that has been passed on for hundreds of years. They are largely responsible for keeping the language, culture and tradition preserved. One of my promises was to unite the nation. Today was a historical occasion."

A round table meeting was held giving each Mekko and/or Henehv the opportunity to voice their concerns and share their hopes to keep the tradition alive for generations to come. Duck Creek Mekko and Elder Simon Harry spoke of his Ceremonial experiences the past 60 years.

"Sickness has taken a lot of people and it has affected the young ones as well," stated Harry. "I am still trying to carry on what the elders left for me to carry on".



## Mills crowned 2004-2005 Miss Muscogee Nation



## World War II veteran visits memorial, remembers Death March

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On May 29, the National World War II Memorial was formally dedicated in the main mall of Washington, D.C.

The memorial was constructed near other historic structures, such as the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The memorial will serve as a point of gratitude from a thankful nation and a reminder to future generations of those who served their country during a very critical time.

Phillip Coon, World War II veteran, made the journey from his home in Sapulpa to the Nation's Capitol to partake in the festivities. "It was quite an honor," said Coon, who was accompanied by his wife, Helen, and son Mike.

"Many people saw Dad's hat which had an inscription about the Bataan death march," said Mike. "They (people) really wanted to talk to him."

Coon served in the U.S. Army during the war and was involved in the Pacific Theatre. Coon, along with 75,000 infantry men and Filipino soldiers, endured the horrible Bataan Death March, an ordeal in which allied prisoners of war were forced to march 100 miles under the rule of the Japanese military to prison camps with no guarantee of food or water. Along the way, Coon and countless others experienced tortuous conditions. Between 10 and 20 thousand prisoners of war died on this horrible march.



## Housing Authority assists elderly tribal couple

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is constantly seeking new ways to help tribal citizens. One of the ways it does so is through the Housing Authority, now under the direction of Creek Nation. An example of this assistance is the full metal house they provided to Mr. and Mrs. Gooden. This house was the first full metal house to be presented in this pilot program designed to assist the elderly who need new houses. Mr. and Mrs. Gooden were very pleased, saying, "We're going to have to be like the Japanese, taking our shoes off and washing our hands to come into the house." According to tribal administration, this is only a glimpse of the good things to come for the Housing Authority and the entire Creek Nation.



## Creek ceremonial song to be included in Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

WASHINGTON D.C., — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian will celebrate its Grand Opening on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

Located on the fourth floor of the museum is the Preparation Theater program, a 13-minute presentation immersing viewers in the vibrancy and diversity of contemporary Native life and explores, from a Native perspective, the strength that different communities across the hemisphere derive from their connections to land, religion, traditional knowledge, self government, and self expression.

The program is presented in a uniquely designed space that features sound, objective theater, and three projection surfaces, including a 360 degree dome. A portion of the music will be a stompdance song led by Creek Citizen Waylon Gray. The audio track is part of the Stompdance Songs of the Muscogee Nation, Volume I, recorded on July 18, 1999.

## Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to contract with BWXT Pantex and Department of Energy

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) held a meeting with representatives of the BWXT Pantex Company regarding a near future contract. BWXT Pantex is the only company within the United States that assembles and disassembles nuclear devices. The Pantex plant is owned by the Department of Energy and is located in Amarillo, Texas. Facilities for MNBE will locate a project office at the facility.

MNBE's immediate goals are to develop safety plans, activity plans and begin the first stages of the proposal for this contract. BWTX Pantex will facilitate and manage a 10 year, \$750 million infrastructure program.

# 30th ANNUAL Creek Festival



## Classes begin at the newly created Tribal College

OKMULGEE — Classes officially began at the newly created Tribal College on the campus of OSU-Okmulgee on Sept. 1.

"We believe this is the beginning of something very special," said Mike Flud, Division of Human Development Deputy Director. "Four of the five largest tribes in the Nation reside in eastern Oklahoma. Our institution of higher learning will be a great resource for educating and preserving our future generations and act as a model for other educational institutions to follow."

A total of 38 students enrolled in Creek Language, Native American History, or one of the 13 general education classes offered at the Tribal College Pilot Project.



## MNN Athlete of the Month: Missy Fox

OKMULGEE — At the age of 11, Missy Fox made a decision that would test her character, as well as her father Brad's. She decided to become a pitcher. As in any sport, time is of the essence. Fox missed out on those early years of repetitious work of perfecting the art of pitching. But as any loving parent would, her father stepped in and has supported his daughter every step of the way.

"We would practice one to two hours a day, six days a week," said Brad. "Sometimes we would go twice a day. I would be at home watching television and remember something she did wrong. I couldn't get it off my mind, so I asked her if she wanted to go practice again. She was eager to go."







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Indian rock band Indigenous to play in Tulsa

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# Muscogee Nation News

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## Tribe breaks ground for Koweta Health Facility

COWETA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation furthered its progress of serving tribal citizens by holding a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Koweta Health and Dental Facility on Saturday, December 11.

The facility has been the desire and hope of Wagoner/Rogers/Mayes/ District Representatives Richard Berryhill and Barbara Gillespie. Berryhill and Gillespie represent the Coweta area.

“Prayers do get answered,” said an excited Gillespie at the ceremony. “Tribal citizens will now have top of the line health services available to them directly instead of having to travel to farther locations.”

Berryhill echoed the comments of Gillespie, and mentioned that the facility was actually in the planning process for some time. “We’ve worked on this for many years, twelve years to get this facility started. I know its taken a lot of people, a lot of time, a lot of effort, a lot of prayers to help move our Nation forward.” Berryhill is excited that the operation of the facility will also allow working closer with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to provide even more services.

Bulldozers and other construction were already in use during the ceremony which is expected to be 56,000 square feet and is planning to be opened on October 1, 2005. Dignitaries in attendance for the ceremony included Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, former Chief R. Perry Beaver, National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola and the Mayor of Coweta, Bill Osborne. Osborne was looking forward to the development of the facility, as well as the relationship between the city and the tribe.

Chief Ellis told Tulsa television station FOX-NEWS that the tribe is diversifying nation wide and wanted the public to know that the Creek Nation is much more than tribal casinos. “We’re expanding. We don’t depend on gaming for everything. We’re expanding in the business industry and medical care.”



## City of Okmulgee and Tribal Officials begin Industrial Complex development with ground breaking ceremony

Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the City of Okmulgee officials broke ground Friday, December 10, on the Creek Nation Light Industrial Complex located on U.S. Highway 75 in Okmulgee to kickoff its development.

Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola, City of Okmulgee Mayor Everett Horn, and City Manager Bob Baxter, performed a ceremonial ground breaking with short rousing speeches.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises erected a large sign depicting the “home” of the new complex. Muscogee Nation Trade and Commerce Director, Danny Wesley, who will manage the property, spoke of the future businesses scheduled for the 40-acre location. He reported that a tire and auto service center, tribal transit authority headquarters and other retail businesses have agreed to locate on this property. Wesley added that negotiations are proceeding for several light manufacturing businesses to join this tribal venture. He offered (918) 732-7765 as his contact information for other interested business.

Mike Flud, Human Development Director, coordinated the groundbreaking and coordinates all efforts to obtain permits, approvals and contracts with City and County of Okmulgee, State offices and Federal agencies to complete utility and access infrastructure. Several members of the Muscogee National Council and many staff attended the ceremony. Chief Ellis and Mayor Horn both announced that economic growth through full community cooperation will be the continuing theme for development in the Okmulgee area.



Pictured above, holding shovels, from left to right, are Second Chief Berryhill, Speaker Thomas Yahola, Principal Chief Ellis, Okmulgee City Manager Bob Baxter, and Della Cherry, Deputy Director Community Development, along with other tribal and city officials. *by Denise Jacobs*

## Soldier receives special message during Big 12 Championship

By Jay Senter, Journal-World staff writer

KANSAS CITY — Haskell Indian Nations University employee Nathan Anderson admitted he was a bit reluctant to haul the sign to Arrowhead Stadium for the Big 12 Championship game between Oklahoma and Colorado.

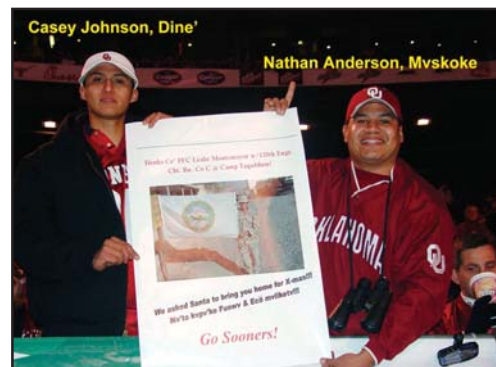
“I don’t usually try to be a highlight,” he said. “I just wanted to go and enjoy the game.”

But a call from his sister-in-law convinced him that the Dec. 4 game in Kansas City, Mo., might offer an opportunity to send a special message to a member of the armed forces: Anderson’s niece, Pfc. Leslie Montemayor, a member of the Army National Guard

who is stationed at Camp Taqaddum in Iraq.

Sure, it was a long shot. First, Anderson would have to get a cameraman to focus on the sign, which had a greeting with a picture of Montemayor standing next to the Creek tribal flag. And even if he managed to get the sign on screen, there wasn’t much hope that Montemayor would see the game live — it didn’t come on in Iraq until 4 a.m.

“She told us that it was going to be on really early in the morning, and didn’t think she’d



Tribal citizen Nathan Anderson and Casey Johnson hold a sign with a special message for Pfc. Leslie Montemayor.

please see **SOLDIER...**, page 13



Letter of inquiry of 1955 Haskell Classmates

**Editor:**

The 1955 graduates of Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas are trying to locate classmates. We are trying to locate the following: Kenneth Berryhill, Ben Deerinwater, Irene Smith, Ruth Tiger, and Pauline Wolfe.

Any assistance anyone can give us will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

**Avis Goldek ,1955 H.I. Grad., Oceanside, CA  
(760) 757-2619**

Young lady's faith restored

**Editor:**

At approximately 7:30 a.m., I was on my way to Okmulgee to work. I was between Okemah and the Clearview exit on I-40 when I saw a young girl standing in the median next to her vehicle, which was pulling a U-Haul trailer. The young lady had been west bound, however, the vehicle and trailer was now headed east. She had apparently hydroplaned and was very lucky to only be partially stuck in the median.

The young lady was trying to wave people down for help. Someone had stopped in front of me, talked to her, then left. She came over to my car and told me what had happened. I asked her if she would like for me to call a wrecker and she told me that she only had enough money to buy gas and would be lucky if the money was enough to get her to her destination in California.

I called an acquaintance and got the phone number for a local wrecker service, but when I called they were closed until after Thanksgiving. I called another wrecker service which had a number that would not ring through. The third service had an answering machine. I called the local police station to see if they could offer any assistance. The man that I spoke to was as cold as the rain on this particular day.

During this time the young lady was attempting to flag down someone who might help. The second State Trooper stopped long enough to tell her he couldn't help her, turned on his lights to pull out and disappeared somewhere up the road. By then, the young lady was near tears and asked me, "Isn't there anyone who cares anymore?"

About that time a pickup with a Muscogee (Creek) Nation license plate started backing up. The driver got out and asked what had happened and offered to go to his place of employment, which was Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. The young lady explained that she had no money to pay a wrecker and he told her that he would send some of his employees anyway to see if they would help. I told her to get in her vehicle and that she could expect someone to help her. I wished her well and proceeded on my way to work.

During my drive, I felt very thankful for the many blessings in my life, such as my job and my loved ones who are near to me and the warmth and security of home at the end of the day. I had truthfully lost my faith

in people during the short period of time that I was on the side of the road trying to help this young lady. It appeared that I-40 was full of people with no feelings for their brothers and sisters who are less fortunate. How could people leave a stranded young lady on the side of the road, especially during the holiday season?

Yes, I had lost my faith in people until a gentleman, a Creek Citizen, offered to help. This made me so very proud of my people! This gentleman, I later found out, is Thomas Yarholar, Chief of Security at the Triple T Casino, and also a member at Springfield Indian Methodist Church. I would like to commend Mr. Yarholar for his efforts and his display of genuine concern for people in need of help. Thlopthlocco Tribal Town should be very proud to have Mr. Yarholar and his staff as employees. KUDOS to you Thomas and the members of your staff who offered their assistance! God Bless you all!

**Cyndi Gilks, CHR Manager**

Living with election results

**Editor:**

The elections are over, and we Creeks must learn to live with the results. One of my greatest concerns is what measures will be taken by the Government regarding the excessive national debt, and the continued costs of the war. The long-term factors of this tremendous debt will impact more on the younger working people than the retired seniors.

In Pete Peterson's book, "Running on Empty," Mr. Peterson is very concerned over the huge national debt, the large trade imbalance, and the falling value of the dollar. He states the fact that our Government is becoming indebted to foreign countries for the financial ongoing of our Government operations. The 6 trillion dollar plus national debt, in addition to the \$100 billion that has been spent on the wars to date and our unfunded liabilities that total between 45 and 51 trillion dollars, will be a heavy tax burden. He says that if the dollar should keep dropping, the countries who are funding us may withdraw their support. China and Japan are the leading purchasers of our bonds.

Since personal debt of the American people is in excess of 9 trillion dollars, I think, like Mr.

Peterson, that we must get out of debt, especially credit card debt.

Younger working Creeks will be the ones who will have the brunt of taxation on their shoulders, as well as all young Americans. We Creeks should get out of debt as quickly as we can and try and build up a substantial cash reserve, if possible, that would take care of daily needs. Someone has said that the cash reserve should cover at least six months of your recurring expenses.

Sincerely yours,

**Jorene Coker, Preston**

please see **LETTERS...**, page 19



*Members of the following two associations:*

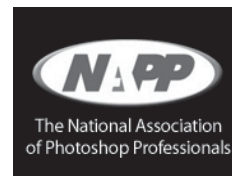


**Native American Journalist Association**

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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

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Office of the Principal

by A.D. Ellis

Greetings to all Chief and staff want to extend a Merry Christmas to all Creek citizens and their families. During this festive time of year, we must give thanks to our American way of life and remember those who are less fortunate, especially the children.

During the month of November, I was able to visit the Holdenville, Eufaula, Wetumka and Dewar Nutrition Centers. A great Thanksgiving dinner at the Eufaula Boarding School was also enjoyed.

A meeting with several Tribal Leaders was attended to form the foundation for the 2005 National Congress of American Indian Conference to be held in Tulsa. This will compose of about 3,000 tribal leaders from the entire United States.

The Tribal Grant Department, headed by **Dr. Leola Taylor**, has completed the grant application and it was approved by the National Council to build a state of the art, all-purpose building on the Omnplex, providing the grant is awarded to the Creek Nation. This will include an ultra-

modern basketball gym, fitness center and later on, a swimming pool. Our young people need an outlet to pursue sports and elderly need to preserve their good health.

This week, on Thursday, December 9, there was a ribbon cutting for the new Trade and Commerce Document Imaging Company. On Friday, December 10, there was a Ground Breaking for the Creek Nation Industrial Park north of town, and on Saturday, December 11, there was a Ground Breaking for the new Coweta Health Clinic.

The Muscogee Nation is moving forward in the busi-



ness industry and health care. Many elders are now moving or are already moved into the new elderly addition behind the Housing Authority building.

My expectations for this administration are probably unreachable, but we will continue to strive to provide more than ever before for our people. We deal in facts, figures and truth, instead of rumors and fiction.

This administration is still building a progressive future by practicing self-determination through action, not words.

Please remember our military men, women and their families in your prayers. **Ken Davis, Veterans Affairs Officer**, has been trying to arrange transportation for him and me to go to Baghdad, Iraq to visit our Creek Troops, but we are not yet successful.

I wish to all a Merry Christmas and safe and happy holidays! *Mvto!*

Quote of the month: *"It is better to deserve honors and not have them, than to have them and not deserve them."*

Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

*Nettv Cako Rakko Herv* (Merry Christmas). Let us try to remember the true meaning of Christmas. I hope that each of you will enjoy the company of your family members. It was during this time that an infant named Jesus was born, thus inaugurating the first fruit of Christianity.

A long time ago, there was another beginning and no one can really say the true origin of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. Oral history has differing versions of our origin. However, through the work of an ethnologist named John Swanton, there is recorded a version that was translated from Creek to English about the origin through the words of Chekilli.

I will write from the Forty-Second Annual Report of The Bureau of American Ethnology, 1924-1925, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1928. This will be the first of a series of recorded history about our people.

"WHAT CHEKILLI, THE HEAD-CHIEF OF THE UPPER AND LOWER CREEKS SAID, IN A TALK HELD AT SAVANNAH, ANNO 1735, AND WHICH WAS HANDED OVER BY THE INTERPRETER, WRITTEN UPON A BUFFALO-SKIN WAS, WORD FOR WORD, AS FOLLOWS:"

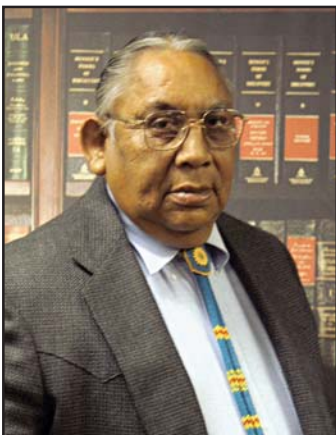
"[Speech, which, in the year 1735, was delivered at Savannah, in Georgia, by] Chekilli, Emperor of the Upper and Lower Creeks; Antiche, highest Chief of the town of the Cowetas, Eliche, King; Ousta, Head-chief of the Cussitaws, Tomechaw, War King; Wali, War-captain of the Palachucolas, Poepiche, King; Tomehuichi, Dog-king of the Euchitaws; Mittakawye, Head War-chief of the Okonees, Tuwechiche, King; Whoyauni, Head War-chief of the Chehaws and of the Hokmulge Nation; Stimelacoweche, King of the Osoches; Opithli, King of the Jawocolos [Sawokli]; Ewenauki, King; Tahmokmi, War captain of the Eufantees [misprint for Eufalees?]; and thirty other Warriors."

"At a certain time the Earth opened in the West, where

its mouth is. The Earth opened and the Cussitaws came out of its mouth, and settled near by. But the Earth became angry and ate up their children; therefore, they moved further West. A part of them, however, turned back, and came again to the same place where they had been and settled there. The greater number remained behind, because they thought it best to do so. Their children, nevertheless, were eaten by the Earth, so that, full of dissatisfaction, they journeyed toward the sunrise."

"They came to a thick, muddy, slimy river—came there, camped there, rested there, and stayed over night there. The next day, they continued their journey and came, in one day, to a red, bloody river. They lived by this river, and ate of its fishes for two years; but there were low springs there; and it did not please them to remain. They went toward the end of this bloody river, and heard a noise as of thunder. They approached to see whence the noise came. At first they perceived a red smoke, and then a mountain which thundered; and on the mountain was a sound as of singing. They went to see what this was; and it was a great fire which blazed upward, and made this singing noise. This mountain they named the King of Mountains. It thunders to this day; and men are very much afraid of it."

"They here met a people of three different Nations. They had taken and saved some of the fire from the mountain; and, at



this place, they also obtained a knowledge of herbs and of other things."

"From the East, a white fire came to them; which, however, they would not use. From Wahalle [the South] came a fire which was black; nor would they use it. At last, came a fire from the North, which was red and yellow. This they mingled with the fire they had taken from the mountain; and this is the fire they use to-day; and this, too, sometime sings. On the mountain was a pole which was very restless and made a noise, nor could any one say how it could be quieted. At length they took a motherless child, and struck it against the pole; and thus killed the child. They then took the pole, and carry it with them when they go to war. It was like a wooden tomahawk, such as they now use, and of the same wood."

"Here they also found four herbs or roots, which sang and disclosed their virtues: First, *Pasaw* [pasa], the rattlesnake root; second, *Micoweanochaw* [miko hoyanidja], red root; third, *Sowatchko* [sowatchko], which grows like wild fennel; and fourth, *Eschalapootchke* [hitci laputcki], little tobacco. These herbs, especially the first and third, they use as the best medicine to purify themselves at their Bust. At this Bust, which is held yearly, they fast, and make offerings of the first fruits. Since they have learned the virtues of these herbs, their women, at certain times, have a separate fire, and remain apart from the men five, six and seven days, for the sake of purification. If they neglected this, the power of the herbs would depart; and women would not be healthy."

"About this time a dispute arose, as to which was the oldest, and which should rule; and they agreed, as they were four Nations, they would set up four poles, and make them red with clay which is yellow at first, but becomes red by burning."

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## Education

### Harmon wins first chair violin

BARTLESVILLE — Jordan Harmon recently won First Chair Violin in the Northeastern Oklahoma All-District Strings Orchestra competition held at Bartlesville High School. Five schools, Jenks, Union, Bartlesville, Owasso, and Skiatook sent seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grade students to compete in the district competition. Jordan placed first in a field of 24 violinists.

Jordan has also recently been selected to participate in the Duke University seventh grade Talent Search Program. The Talent Search Program identifies academically talented seventh graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school.

Candidates are identified and invited to complete either the SAT or ACT. The goal is to assist young people with excellent mathematical or verbal aptitude. She will be taking the ACT in December.

Jordan is a seventh grade honor student at Jenks Middle School and is enrolled in their gifted and talented program.



Harmon

### Spradling accepted into the school of architecture

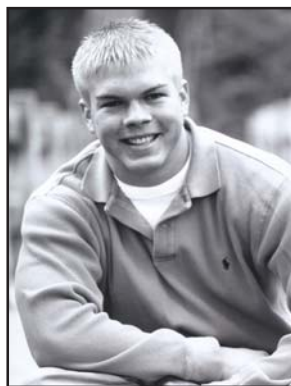
GRAVETTE, Ark. — Jarrod Scott Spradling, a 2000 graduate of Gravette High School, has been accepted into the Professional School of Architecture at Oklahoma State University. Based on academic achievement and professional potential, only thirty applicants are accepted each year at this highly respected school.

The OSU School of Architecture is consistently ranked as one of the top architectural schools in the world. Over the past forty years, the Oklahoma State University School of Architecture has one of the best records of success in student design competitions, as compared to all accredited schools in the United States.

Jarrod is the son of Steven and Janet Baldwin Spradling of Bella Vista, Arkansas. He is the grandson of Jack and Yvonne Haikey Bullock Spradling of Broken Arrow and the great-grandson of the late Luther and Ethel Baird Spradling and the late Cordellia Bullock all of Bixby.

Jarrod is also the great-grandson of the late Jesse Haikey of Broken Arrow, an original allottee of the Creek Nation. Spradling carries his Indian name "Whitebear II".

He is a member of the Bear Clan and Cheyaha Tribal Town. His family church is Haikey United Methodist Chapel in Broken Arrow.



Spradling

### Littlehead receives Tiger cub of the month

COWETA — Tommy Littlehead, a Yuchi in the first grade at Coweta Central, recently received the Tiger Cub of the Month for November. He was also Tiger Cub of the Month for November in 2003.

Tommy is the son of Jay and Carlena Littlehead.



Littlehead

## Births

### William Corbin Harjo

TULSA — William Corbin Harjo was born August 17 at St. Francis Hospital to Ben Harjo and Amanda Bowman.

He weighed 9 lbs. and 15 ounces and was 20.75 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents Earline and William Corbin Bowman, Jr., of Tulsa.

Paternal grandparents are Thomas and Linda Harjo of Sapulpa.

Williams has one big sister, Savanna Harjo.



Harjo

### Mandy Louise Hoktu'ce Proctor

JACKSON, Miss. — Mandy Louise Hoktuc'ce Proctor was born on September 16 at the University Medical Center to Samara Proctor.

She weighed 5 lbs and 14 ounces and was 21 inches in length.

Grandparents are Hattie Proctor of Philadelphia, MS and Sam Proctor of Dustin.

Great-grandparents are the late Maggie Beaver Proctor and Johnson Proctor of Hanna.

She is of the Creek/Cherokee/Mississippi Choctaw descent and belongs to the Bear Clan and the Tallahasee Tribal Town.



Proctor

## Birthday

### Coker celebrates with Yu-Gi-Oh theme

STILLWATER — Taylor Chase Coker celebrated his seventh birthday on Oct. 16 at Kid's Kingdom. The party was in a Yu-Gi-Oh theme. Attendees enjoyed games, cake and punch.

Coker is a first grader at Perkins-Tryon Elementary School. He is very active in tee ball and flag football. He is the son of Cheryl Douglas and Barry Coker of Perkins.

Maternal grandparents are Bill and Betty Douglas of Chandler and the late Norma Douglas of Chandler. Paternal grandparents are Cora Lee Coker of Wewoka and Sonny Coker of Bristow.

### Girl celebrates 11th birthday

PERKINS — Caitlin Paige Coker celebrated her eleventh birthday on Oct. 24 at the Perkins Community building with a carnival type theme. Attendees enjoyed hotdogs, cotton candy, cake, punch and played carnival type games for prizes.

She is a fifth grader at Perkins-Tryon Intermediate School. She is active in basketball, tumbling and cheerleading.



T. and C. Coker

### Factor celebrates birthday at Chuck E. Cheese

TULSA — Josiah Alan Factor turned three on Nov. 26 and celebrated with two parties at the Okmulgee Child Development Center and a party at Chuck E. Cheese.

He is the son of Daniel and Ellie Factor of Okemah.

Maternal grandparents are Della Proctor of Okmulgee and Elliot Barnett of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandparents are Noah and Lucinda Factor of Okemah. Maternal great grandparents are the late Judy Proctor of Hanna and the late Rev. Austin and Mamie Barnett of Eufaula. Paternal great grandparents are Rev. Wilson and Ina Hicks of Okemah. He has one sister, Kaitlyn, and attends Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church.



Factor

### Boy celebrates third birthday at McDonalds

HENRYETTA — Isaac Jordan Jennings turned three Nov. 20. He celebrated on Nov. 27 at McDonalds.

He is the son of Kirby Jennings of Okmulgee and Kristi Morgan of Ardmore.

Maternal grandparents are Dorislene Morgan of Ardmore and Kenneth Morgan of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandparents are Teresa Tarpalechee Jennings and Bobby Jennings of Okmulgee.

Maternal great grandparents are Pauline Morgan and the late Dan Morgan.

Paternal great grandparents are the late Henry and Elizabeth Tarpalechee and the late Pearline Day.



Jennings



## Third Annual Camp Cvfeknetv date is set

WELLING — Once again it is time for camp Cvfeknetv. Come and enjoy all the fun with activities such as horse back riding, basketball, volleyball, softball, swimming, and so much more.

All participants will have the opportunity to learn about traditional tobacco and the Muscogee traditions. The camp will be located at the Heart O' the Hills in Welling for ages 12 to 18 years old. Registration is free.

"I have attended the past two Camp Cvfeknetv events and have enjoyed educating our local and surrounding area youth about our Creek traditions" said MCN Tobacco Prevention Staff Melanie Edwards. "Every year has brought something new and exciting to the camp agenda. I am looking forward to our third annual camp."

To register or for more information about this camp, contact Melanie Edwards at (918) 756-6231.

## Second hand smoke kills

OKMULGEE — Secondhand smoke (SHS), known also as environment tobacco smoke (ETS), is both the smoke given off by the burning end of cigarettes, cigars, or pipes and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of smokers that is inhaled by nonsmokers.

Second smoke contains a complex mixture of more than 4,000 chemicals, more than 50 of which are cancer causing agents (carcinogens).

Children and adolescents with at least one smoking parent have a 25 to 40% increased risk of chronic respiratory symptoms, such as cough, wheezing and breathlessness.

Secondhand smoke is estimated to cause 3,000 lung cancer deaths in nonsmokers each year.

Approximately 53,000 nonsmoking Americans die from secondhand smoke each year.



## Doctor's Note

*A special message from the staff of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Staff*

OKMULGEE—The best gift this Christmas Season is the gift of health for you or someone you love. If you are ready to quit smoking, contact your local MCN health care facility. We can help!

Eufaula Health Care Center 918-689-2547  
CN Okemah Hospital 918-623-1424  
Okmulgee Health Care Center 918-756-1926  
Sapulpa Health Care Center 918-224-9310

# Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention uses street teams to educate youth about preventing commercial tobacco abuse

OKMULGEE — Each day nearly 5,000 youth ages 12 to 17 try a cigarette for the first time. One third of all smokers start before the age of 14. Eighty percent of all smokers have their first cigarette before age 18, 90% of all smokers begin before age 10.

Between one-third and one half of youth who try a cigarette will go on to become a daily smoker. Education is the first step in preventing our youth from becoming a commercial tobacco abuser. Your community can help in saving many

N a t i v e youth from dying from a preventable death.

D i d you know that in a recent survey American Indians and Alaska Native youth were more likely than youths from other racial/ethnic groups to s m o k e cigarettes during the last month. S t u d i e s vary in estimating the c u r r e n t American

Indian and Alaska Native youth smoking rate to be between 30% and 50%.

Nearly every adult who smokes (almost 90%) took his or her first puff at or before the age of 18. About 31% of American Indian and Alaska Native youth report having used some form of commercial tobacco in the last month. In a study of High school seniors, only 5% of those who smoked believed they would still be smoking two years later.

Children and teenagers make up the majority of all new smokers, and the tobacco industry's

advertising and promotion campaigns target young Native youth. Approximately 43% of young people who smoke as few as 3 cigarettes go on to become regular smokers.

Cigarette smoking by young people leads to serious health problems, including cough and phlegm production, an increase in the number and severity of respiratory illnesses, decreased physical fitness (both performance and endurance), adverse changes in blood cholesterol levels, and reduced rates of lung growth and functions.

T h e Muscogee Nation Tobacco Prevention Street Team can help your community educate your youth about the dangers of Commercial Tobacco abuse. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program is seeking additional members in 2005 for the Muscogee N a t i o n



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program staff wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Street Teams.

Youth between 14 and 18 years old are encouraged to join the MCN Street Teams at no cost to them.

This program is a youth led operation in hopes of reaching other Native American youth in their communities during youth events, such as ball tournaments, rodeos, and festivals.

For further information about the MCN Tobacco Prevention Program or Street Teams, call 1 800-782-8291, ext. 285 or ext. 277 or email at [Cynthia.coachman@mail.ihs.gov](mailto:Cynthia.coachman@mail.ihs.gov).



## From the desk of Sara Gibson

Welcome to the first piece dedicated specifically to gaming. Many of you have asked for a gaming section and we are pleased to respond to your request. In the upcoming months, we hope that you find the new section beneficiary in finding out exciting events happening, not only in your local gaming facility area, but in all gaming facilities throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as well as important issues facing gaming nationally throughout Indian country.

There are many questions and concerns people have when it comes to gaming. They range from a variety of topics, such as: "What is the difference between Class I, Class II and Class III gaming?" to more specific questions such as "Now that SQ 712 has passed, how does that effect me as a Native American?" and "What kind of direct impact will it have on the economic development of our Native people?" We hope to be able to provide answers and insight to these kinds of topics or at least be able to provide access to resources who would have a better explanation.

With this being the first issue with a gaming section, we will examine basic definitions. When the discussion of differences between classes of gaming are brought up there is often times confusion. To make things easier, we have provided actual definitions used by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act provided by the National Indian Gaming Commission.

*Class I* gaming is defined as traditional Indian gaming and social gaming for minimal prizes. Regulatory authority over Class I gaming is vested exclusively in tribal governments.

*Class II* gaming is defined as the game of chance commonly known as bingo, whether or not electronic or computer. Class II gaming also includes non-banded card games, that is, games that are played exclusively against other players rather than against the house or a player acting as a bank. The Act specifically excludes slot machines or electronic facsimiles of any game of chance from the definition.

The state of Oklahoma uses Class II gaming amenities at the present time but change is forthcoming.

Finally the definition of *Class III* gaming. In truth, the definition is extremely broad. Made simple, it includes all forms of gaming that are neither Class I nor II. Generally, Class III is often referred to as casino style gaming and what individuals would see in a Las Vegas Casino. As a compromise, the Act restricts Tribal authority to conduct Class III gaming.

We hope this has made cleared up any questions you may have had regarding actual definitions. Please send other questions we can address in next month's issue.

## Creek Nation Casino employee wins a 2005 Chevrolet Pick-Up at state conference

OKMULGEE — LeAnn High recently won a 2005 Chevrolet Colorado SE Pick-Up at the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association's 10th Annual Conference and Tradeshow.

The Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association, made up of gaming tribes in Oklahoma, held their annual conference on Nov. 29 through Dec. 1 in Oklahoma City at the Cox Convention Center.

Each year at the closing ceremonies, various door prizes are awarded. The prizes range from televisions to items such as cars or vacation getaways. This year the grand prize was a midnight blue, fully loaded 2005 Chevrolet Colorado SE Pick-Up. On hand to witness High win and receive her early Christmas present were about 30 other Creek Nation Casino employees from various other casinos throughout Creek Nation.

"When they said the winner was from Creek Nation Casino and then said my name, I just couldn't believe it," said High. "I jumped up and down, screamed and practically ran over a person running up to the front."

Other Creek Nation winners were National Council Representative Sue Johnson and Brodie Rosbrugh. Johnson won a DVD/VHS combo and Rosbrugh won 2 tickets to an Oklahoma City Blazer Ice Hockey game.

This was the first year Creek Nation was an exclusive sponsor of the annual conference and tradeshow. The visibility of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was greater than before, with such things as vendors, informational booths, shuttles, and golf clubs.



## Okmulgee and Tulsa Creek Nation Casino officers doing their part to help during Thanksgiving

OKMULGEE — Thanksgiving is a time to not only be thankful for the many blessings one receives, but it is also a time when people realize the holiday season is upon us and find ways in assisting others who may be less fortunate than ourselves.

The Security Officers at both the Okmulgee and Tulsa Creek Nation Casino completed a task some would have thought to be impossible. Through generous donations of food and money, officers were able to produce Thanksgiving food baskets for the Native American citizens in the Tulsa, Okmulgee, and surrounding communities.

Each basket was filled with a variety of items, such as beans, corn, macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, rolls, instant mashed potatoes, gravy and even a turkey with its own roaster pan.

The venture was a huge success. The security officers from the Tulsa facility were able to provide 20 baskets to families, while Okmulgee officers provided an additional 10.

The basket delivering began in the early morning and continued throughout the day. According to the officers, the expressions on the faces of the people made everything worth it.

While each area casino had their own ways of generating the list of recipients whom received the baskets, the Tulsa facility stated, with the assistance of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center, they hope to double the number of baskets for Christmas.

On a side note, the Tulsa facility would also like to express their sincere gratitude to the Gaming operations Authority Board for allowing them to purchase the 2004 Dodge Durangos that were much needed and used to deliver baskets.





## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services Department implements the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP. This federally funded program assists low income Native American households who reside in the Muscogee Creek Nation boundaries.

The program provides assistance with heating expenses during the heating season, Nov 1 - March 31, and electric expenses during the cooling season, May 1 - September 30. An applicant who has received assistance through the LIHEAP program, or any other program for heating expenses, they cannot assist with heating expenses until the next heating season. The amount of assistance is not based on the amount of the bill, but goes according to household size, income, and energy source.

Basic requirements are the head of the household or that person's spouse must have at least a CDIB from a federally recognized tribe. The household must meet the income guidelines as identified in the grant application. Applicants must reside within the service area. Applicants must also submit documentation to verify the household meets the requirements, such as CDIB or tribal membership card, Social Security cards for each household member, income or the lack of income for each household member 18 years of age or older, and a heating/electric bill or invoice in the applicant or spouse's name. Other documentation may be required in cases of guardianship, legal custody, etc.

Once any applicant qualifies for the program, he/she will receive notice prior to the regularly scheduled walk in appointment date. This allows the applicant to participate in a pre-application process and avoid the rush of applications during the walk in process.

From time to time, LIHEAP participants are eligible to receive other benefits such as blankets, heater, and air conditioner units if funding is available.

## Pack Tests dates announced

OKMULGEE — The Bureau of Indian Affairs, in cooperation with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Fire Suppression Program, will be administering Pack Tests on the following dates: Dec. 18, Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, and Jan. 29.

All pack-testing will begin at 9 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. Tests may be cancelled due to inclement weather, such as rain, sleet, or snow. The tests will be administered at Harmon Stadium or the Claude Cox Omniplex. EMS will be present during all testing times.

The Pack Tests requires an individual to carry a minimum of 45 lbs, on his or her back, for three miles in 45 minutes or less.

New recruits must show proof of tribal affiliation and pick up a medical examination form at the Fire Management Office. Medical exams must be filled out before they individuals take the pack test. Qualified applicants will be sent to Ada for rookie Wildland Firefighting Training Jan. 31 through Feb. 4.

The Fire Management office is located at 1006 East

Eufaula Street in Okmulgee. For additional information call 752-0604 and ask for Jason or Willie.

Firefighters will need to complete a refresher course "Standards for Survival." The dates for this course are to be announced. These two requirements must be met in order for each individual to be available for the 2005 Fire Season.

## Language Institute looking for teachers and students

OKMULGEE — The Mvskoke Language Institute is planning and scheduling Creek Language classes for all the various communities within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

These community Creek language classes will begin in February and continue throughout the year until each community has had the opportunity to host a class.

Each class will be team taught by a group of Creek teachers utilizing curriculum ideas that were part of an earlier training session. These curriculum development concepts are the driving force behind the classes and make for a highly energetic and fast paced learning experience.

Ideas from Total Physical Response (TPR), role-playing, games, Immersion-style, and vocabulary repetition are used freely in the class lessons. Each of the various teachers will use their own style of teaching method, all as a part of a highly engaging class setting. All of this will be combined into a unified whole that will require a complete day to present.

Immersion-like, the main focus of the classes, will be seen in the lessons that the teachers will present for each section. Role-playing, physical activities, and games will be conducted in the language to give the students a feel for how the Creek Language is used and how it sounds in a naturalistic setting.

Learning will take place subconsciously as the teachers have the students participate in each activity. Even lunchtime is included in this framework, so that when it is time to eat the food will be named and the actions associated with eating will be shown in Creek. A full day's complement of activities will be scheduled with the students hav-

ing some take home work to finish study on their own.

The Mvskoke Language Institute, in addition to scheduling the community classes, is also looking for interested Creek speakers to tryout this immersion-style of teaching the language.

If you would like to be involved and have a desire to present the Creek Language to the next upcoming generations of Creek citizens, contact Ted Isham at (918) 756-2324.

## Cherokee Basket Classes

MUSKOGEE — The Five Civilized Tribes Museum will be hosting basket making classes, including a class in making traditional Cherokee Honeysuckle Baskets on Jan. 7, 8, and 9. The cost is \$75 per person, with all materials included.

Also included within the class is a field trip to gather honeysuckle, as well as the processing it, dying it, and making the basket in the traditional way and taking home a completed basket. Class size is limited. For more information call 1 (877) 587-4297.

## Okmulgee Indian Community swears in new secretary

OKMULGEE — On Dec. 13 Pat Williams was sworn in as the new secretary of the Okmulgee Indian Community Center's Executive Board.

Williams was previously employed with the Okmulgee Health Center as a dental therapist. She worked there for twenty years until a knee injury caused her to retire from work.

Williams returned to school and received an Associates Degree in Pre-Education and Secondary Education from Oklahoma State University in Okmulgee and a Bachelors Degree in Social Services from Northeastern State University.

She has been involved with the Okmulgee Indian Community Center for at least 10 years prior to her nomination. The community members also celebrated their annual Christmas party and conducted their monthly meeting.

## Veterans officer sends care packages to soldiers in Iraq

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Officer Ken Davis, along with Second Chief Alfred Berryhill and Fred Harlan, sent care packages to the soldiers stationed in Iraq. The packages were sent out to the 120th engineer combat battalion out of Okmulgee.

"Fred Harlan is a very unique and patriotic individual," said Davis. "He witnessed the other committed company withdraw its support for the care packages. Without hesitation, Harlan rushed in and paid for all contents and shipping to make sure our soldiers in combat were well taken care of. Because of what he done for our citizens, I would do business with him anytime!"





Yeager Headstart

3 Year Old Class

Dear Santa:

I want presents. I want a spiderman blanket. Come over my house. Where are you? I think you might be building toys. Your friend, Chad L.

Dear Santa:

Come home and bring toys. Your friend, Kendra F.

Dear Santa:

Willis is my Santa Clause. My mama is Jan. I'm Tonja. I got a sucker out of it. Give me toys and be my friends. Your friend, Tonja Landreth

Dear Santa:

Bring me a whole lot of toys. I seen Dr. Phil on T.V. He likes toys. I like toys. I want two baby dolls. Your friend, Erin J.

Dear Santa:

Please bring me some toys, toys, toys, Your friend, Shevon B.

Dear Santa:

Bring me some candy, two candies, and toys. Your friend, Brysy G.

Dear Santa:

Please bring me a Barbie, Barbie Shoes, Barbie Clothes and Barbie toys. That's it! Your friend, Maniyah A.

Dear Santa:

Would you bring be a Ninja Turtle, Bike, Spiderman Web Action, Spiderman walkie talkies, and a Spiderman Kit. Your friend, Nathan F.

Dear Santa:

I would like for you to bring me a bike motorcycle. Your friend, Cheyenne Mc.

Dear Santa:

I like Santa. I like Santa's elves. I like Santa's reindeer. I want a Dora pull thing that you pull people. Bring my sissy something but she always pulls my hair. I love you! Your friend, Brenna J.

Dear Santa:

Mommy's at school. Daddy's at work. I at school. Get my write. (paper, pencils, crayons) I want markers. I like to write. I want you at my house. Your friend, Kassandra R.

Dear Santa:

I want a Santa Clause Christmas! Your friend, Brandsyn G.

Dear Santa:

Santa see you at my house. Bring toys and I don't know. Your friend, Dixie J.

Dear Santa:

I would like for you to bring me a Book, uh, hum! Your friend, Victoria

Dear Santa:

My daddy there. (at my house) My mama's going to pick me up later. Come to my house, my mom will be there. Your friend, Kyle A.

Dear Santa:

My name is Ehole. I would like for you to bring my Shrek II and Sponge Bob, and makeup. I live at my Grandma Martha's house. Your friend, Ehole Y.

Dear Santa:

I would like some crayons for Christmas. Your friend, Christian P.

Dear Santa:

School bus! My school bus! Mama that school bus. Your friend, Antonio W.

Dear Santa:

Toys! Your friend, James U.

4 Year Old Class

Dear Santa:

I want Ice Cream, Cake, vegetables for Christmas, and Angelica car and doll from Rugrats. Love, Takia Robinson

Dear Santa:

I want Power Rangers for Christmas. Love, Ky Lowe

Dear Santa:

I want a monster truck and toys for Christmas. Love, Raymond Thomas

Dear Santa:

I want a bathing suit, new cup, strawberry girl, and a doctor's suit with a hat. LoveAngel Hartley

Dear Santa:

I want a Power Ranger girl, baby dolls, and a big car for Christmas. Love, Mercedes Sam

Dear Santa:

I want a brats Katz car, Barbie or Cinderella Shoes, bow and arrow, and 2 computers. I would like to have these for Christmas. Love, Denys Davis

Dear Santa:

What I want for Christmas is a four wheeler, motorcycle, punching bag and gloves. Love, Kotcha Moppin

Dear Santa:

I want a Barbie house, Barbie swimming pool, Barbie shoes, and Barbie crayons. Love Esse Yahola

Dear Santa:

I would like a Barbie jeep, Bratz guitar, Power Puff shirt, and gloves. Also Barbie crayons, Barbie, and Barbie swim pool. Love, Erin Rogers

Dear Santa:

I would like a trampoline for Christmas. Love, We-Cate Lowe

Dear Santa:

I've been a good boy this year. What I would like for Christmas is a new four wheeler, and a gun. Love, Colton Thompson

Dear Santa:

I want you to bring me a swimming pool, dragon toy, new house, new shoes, and a Power Ranger toy. Love, Christian Moppin

Dear Santa:

I want a crayon, Barbie, chairs, glue, and markers for Christmas. Love, Salina Underwood

Dear Santa:

I want a Christmas tree, Spiderman, and a Spiderman suit. Love, Jaylon Thetford

Dear Santa:

I want baby dolls and that's all. Love, Monica Smith

Dear Santa:

I want baby dolls, kitty cat, blanket for baby, and a dragon. Love, Amanda Smith

Dear Santa:

I like trucks, cars, tigers, and dinosaurs.

Love, Dezmon Hobia

Dear Santa:

I want a G.I. Joe, Hulk, Spiderman, all for Christmas. Love, Zaydian Lamey

Dear Santa:

I want a Barbie doll, Princess toy, Barbie car, bratz pad, and necklace and bracelet. Love, Angelina Scott

November District Court filings

Protective Orders:

- Angelique Brady v. Bo Allen Judd
- Amy Wilson v. Richard Williamson
- Richard Wilson v. Amy Wilson
- Melissa Pigeon v. Virgil Sanders, Jr.
- Elizabeth Edwards v. Bobby Edwards

Criminal - Felonies:

- MCN v. Stanton Brooks
- Poss. of Illegal Drugs

Criminal - Misdemeanor

- MCN v. LittleJim Squirrel
- Larceny

Traffic:

- MCN v. Chad Stewart
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Ben Cooper
- Transporting Open Container
- MCN Ray Johnson
- Oopen Receptacle Containing Alcohol
- MCN v. Michael Hammer
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Michael Hammer
- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Julias Ball
- Disorderly Conduct

Divorce:

- Carolyn Woodfork v. Herman Woodfork
- Cheryl Haney v. Michael Haney
- Minnife Delgadd v. Raal Delgadd
- Heather Barber v. Jonathan Barber
- Thomas Pickering v. La Ginea Pickering
- April Taylor v. Marlon Taylor

Civil/ Small Claims:

- Phillip Glass v. MCN Tulsa Casino et, al.
- Complaint
- Mulligan Enterprises v. Washington Cummings
- Foreign Judgment
- Martin Tiger v. Kathryn Grayson
- Petition for Establish Paternity
- Lille Hinkle v. Marie Smith Hinkle
- Petition for Grandparents Visitation
- In the Matter Of: Sydney Barnett
- Name Change
- Security Finance v. Patricia Postoak
- Foreign Judgment
- Jason Schultz v. Amanda Littlefield
- Petition to Establish Paternity
- In the Matter of: Kyla Nichole Bearbow
- Name Change
- Royal Finance v. Alice Locust
- Small Claims
- Community Hospital Lakeview v. Suzanne Franklin
- Foreign Judgment



## Second

continued from page 3

They would then go to war; and whichever Nation should first cover its pole, from top to bottom, with the scalps of their enemies, should be the oldest.”

“They all tried, but the Cussitaws covered their pole first, and so thickly that it was hidden from sight. Therefore, they were looked upon, by the whole Nation,, as the oldest. The Chickasaws covered their pole next; then the Atilamas [Alabamas]; but the Obikaws [Abihkas] did not cover their pole higher than to the knee.”

“At that time there was a bird of large size, blue in color, with a long tail, and swifter than an eagle, which came every day and killed and ate their people. They made an image in the shape of a woman, and placed it in the way of this bird. The bird carried it off, and kept it a long time, and then brought it back. They left it alone, hoping it would bring something forth. After a long time, a red rat came forth from it, and they believed the bird was the father of the rat. They took council with the rat how to destroy its father. Now the bird had a bow and arrows; and the rat gnawed the bowstring, so that the bird could not defend itself, and the people killed it. They called this bird the King of Birds. They think the eagle is also a great King; and they carry its feathers when they go to War or make Peace; the red mean War; the white, Peace. If an enemy approaches with white feathers and a white mouth, and cries like an eagle, they dare not kill him.”

“After this they left that place, and came to a white foot-path. The grass and everything around were white; and they plainly perceived that people had been there. They crossed the path, and slept near there. Afterward they turned back to see what sort of path that was, and who the people were who had been there, in the belief that it might be better for them to follow that path. They went along it to a creek called *Coloose-hutche*, that is Coloose-creek, because it was rocky there and smoked.”

“They crossed it, going toward the sunrise, and came to a people and town named Coosaw. Here they remained four years. The Coosaws complained that they were preyed upon by a wild beast, which they called man-eater or lion, which lived in a rock.”

“The Cussitaws said they would try to kill the beast. TO BE CONTINUED.

## Mvskoke History Series: WEAPONS & TOOLS

By  
Patrick E. Moore

Paleontologists have discovered Pre-Colombian cutting weapons close to modern day Cactus Hill, Virginia in archaeological excavations of an ancient Native American campsite. This North American site has yielded ancient weapons that were hand made, then lost or misplaced by the Native American owner/craftsman and radiocarbon dated to be more than 18,000 years old. Hand crafted arrow points have been found at Fell's Cave, Chile, that

were lost or misplaced by the owner over 10,800 years ago. These early cutting weapons were constructed using a technique that has been attributed to a people who inhabited the southwestern portion Europe that is present day southern France and northern Spain. These ancient Europeans had inhabited this area for millenniums until 20,000 years ago when they mysteriously disappeared.

Where did they go? Migrating humans traveling from the European continent long enough ago to lose cutting weapons at a location in present day Virginia 18,000 years ago must surely have been traveling, on foot or by water for several thousand years before camping at the Cactus Hill site.

Recent human DNA studies reveal a special characteristic found in the DNA of some modern northeastern Native Americans that does not appear in the DNA of today's Asian population, but this special characteristic does appear in the DNA of some modern Europeans. Was there a migration from Europe to the Americas? Some in the scientific community now doubt the only migration to the Americas was from Asia 14,000 years ago and now believe there were some arrivals to the east coast of North America over 30,000 years ago.

Pre-Columbian cutting weapons and tools were essential for human survival. These tools came in many shapes and forms and were made out of many different natural materials.

Scrapers with blades resembling chisels were made out of basanite, chert, jasper or agate. In its simplest form the scraper was hand held, later padding was added and still later the scraper was affixed to a wooden, bone or horn handle. Early North American craftsmen developed and refined hide tanning by using these ancient scrapers.

Cutting tools were also used for sawing and when crafted for use as a saw the tool had a pronounced serrated edge and this tool in the hands of an ancient craftsman could produce some rather remarkable products out of wood, bone, horn, soft stone and sea shells.

The process of making a knife 30,000 years ago was indeed a tedious task that tested the most skilled Native American craftsman. Many different materials were used to construct knives. The Native American sharpened bone, horn, copper and some iron. Large animal teeth, aquatic shells and harder woods were also fashioned with an edge for use as a knife.

Perhaps the most difficult material for the Native American to work with was obsidian. The craftsman would spend hours and sometimes days to produce one dagger. The process required flaking the obsidian along natural lines within the stone by striking or flaking the rock with another hard rock or bone until the desired outline was obtained with a razor sharp edge. Some obsidian blades were 20 inches long with a width at the handle of 2 to 3 inches. The handle was wrapped in deerskin or set in a wooden or bone handle to prevent the owner from cutting his hands. The few obsidian knives existing today are more 12,000 years old. These obsidian knives are priceless records of ancient Native American history and today only exhibited in the finest museums.

Long before the arrival of modern European colonists (1492 A.D.) Native Americans had begun to hammer copper nuggets. Copper nuggets had been exposed by the last ice age glacier when the earth warmed 9,000 to 8,000 years ago, retreating ice also allowed Native American to repopulate northern areas of North America as the land turned into a green wetlands.

The Native American metal smith worked copper acquired by

trade with people from the Great Lakes and copper was a familiar trade good as far south as Mississippi and east to the Atlantic Ocean. Copper spear points, axes and knives were traded throughout the Mississippi River area and its tributaries. The copper weapon could be fashioned with a much narrower and longer double edged blade, but copper had the disadvantage of dulling rather quickly.

Treasured knives were often carried in a sheath hung around the owners neck or in a flap of buck skin fashioned in the warriors battle shirt. Knife sheaths were very elaborately decorated and the weapons carefully cared for by their owners. The rank of a warrior was often denoted by the knife and scabbard he carried.

Native Americans over the aeons developed many oaths involving the knife. When in council, after a warrior had made his speech he would remove his knife from its sheath, hold the weapon in his right hand, point it toward the sky and say to all present, “I have spoken the truth.” The warrior would then draw his knife between his lips, touching the blade with his tongue and the oath taking was complete.

There were certain Native American tribes with secret warrior societies whose members would only use a knife in battle. Ceremonial rituals associated with the “Knife Warrior Societies” were very complex and involved throwing and catching of knives bare-handed. Some rituals included the trial of sleeping on a thorn bed while being beaten with the flat edge of a knife. Few warriors were willing to endure initiation into these “knife warrior societies.”

The “Knife Warrior” went into battle armed only with his knife, his battle path was straight to the enemy and he would not retreat. The “Knife Warrior's” reputation for fierceness in battle often sent the enemy into full retreat and added to the already folklore legends of these fearless and time honored warriors.

The “Knife Warrior's” fighting technique was designed to utterly strike terror into the enemy camp, for the enemy knew combat with these fearsome warriors was to hand to hand and the “Knife Warrior” would not surrender nor retreat.

Ancient Muscogee warriors of this class would often enter battle wearing only a loin cloth, their bodies painted with red and black paint, occasionally yellow. The use of body and face paint was for rare occasions and signified the great importance of the event.

Colors used increased the warriors power and also intimidated the enemy. Red was the color of war and the “Red Sticks” often painted their faces, throats, necks, wrists and back of their hands red. The handle of the “Red Stick Warrior's” knife was red and the owner warrior had taken an irrevocable oath to battle and destroy the enemy.

Black face paint was common and often used to compliment red. Black paint was considered a living color. Green paint sometimes applied under a warriors eyes to help his night vision. Horizontal and vertical lines of red paint around the warrior's eyes improved his vision and attracted game. Red face paint was on occasion used to attract the female, however the use of red paint to often was thought to create mental problems.

Yellow paint was the color of death and its use was confined to very special warriors and never applied in excess.

Pre-Columbian Muscogee men were elaborately tattooed with the “Sun” always placed in the center of their chest. Experienced warriors often had the image of a war club tattoo on their right shoulder.



# Building homes for families, one Christmas at a time

by Joshua Slane

TULSA — Christmas is fast approaching and for many people, that means gathering together with family and friends, exchanging gifts under the tree, and time off of school or work. But to some people, Christmas is more, more than just a break that is meant to be spent with the people one cares about, it's about helping others, and it's about showing love.

That's what the Home Builder's Association continues to do, year after year, because you see, Home Builders brings Christmas to alot of young people. Though I guess that's not entirely accurate, more it brings the kids to Christmas.

These kids are all the students at Ryal school, over 70 of them and they've been doing it for better than twenty years. I know, I was one of the kids, starting in 1987 and continuing for my nine years at Ryal, until my last Christmas at Ryal in 1995 (having gone on to graduate from the 8th grade in May of 1996).

The day of the trip to homebuilders is a magical day that can never start early enough. It's one day of the school year that students usually wake up long before their parents. Were it up to the students, there's little doubt that the school would be full of kids by 7 a.m., none wanting to even think of the tragedy that missing this joyous occasion would bring.

But it's not up to them. The bus schedule and the parents' schedules run as normal. So the school fills up as it does on any other day, with the exception that there's no one sick, no one absent, on the day of the trip to homebuilders. Also, hanging in the air is a nearly palatable sense of longing, anxiousness, and excitement. Kids lucky enough to have gone before tell the younger ones how it will be. Those who have never went can scarcely believe their ears, for what they hear is far too good to be true, only this time, this one time out of all the times, it's not.

Students are then called to a meeting in the gym by school principal Mr. Hicks. He gives them the same important speech he always does, no running, pushing, shoving, always say thank you, stay with your sponsor, and be polite. They then board the bus by grades, Kindergarten going first and sitting up front, and so on until the 8th graders, who get the oh so important back seats of the bus, as is their right by seniority.

The bus ride up to Tulsa is a magical event in and of itself. It seems like you're waiting forever to get there, the bus is moving so slow, and it takes hours. However, once you're there, it seems as though you've just left.

After all, you've been talking with your friends about what you're going to buy, about how much pizza you're going to eat, and of course, what you're going to do over Christmas break.

The first destination is Wal-Mart at 41st and Memorial. The kids are lead off the bus by grades, kindergartners going first, and they are met by volunteers from the Home Builder's Association, who then present them

with envelopes stuffed with cash. They also serve as an escort around the store, helping with things that might be out of reach, and ensuring none of the children get lost.

And we're not talking a small amount of money. It's not surprising for the envelopes to hold fifty dollars. A gift to the students to spend however they desire. Even so, it's not unheard of, indeed

not entirely uncommon to see volunteers slipping money out of their wallets or purses to supplement their child's envelope. Money that they won't get reimbursed, and we're not talking rich people, just average, run of the mill, working class, Christmas love spreading people.

However, here it's quite possible the children of Ryal School would surprise many of you. Most of them don't run towards the toys, or even the electronics sections first. They instead go around and pick out what gifts they want to get for their family first. The Christmas of their loved ones being more important than their own. Only afterwards do they then shop for themselves.

After the children have shopped for an hour and a half to two hours, they eventually have spent their money and wind up in the snack bar, where pop and popcorn is provided to them and their sponsors. The store's employees then lead them in some Christmas carols, and the kids once again head toward their bus. But on the way out each kid is presented with a small bag of treats, including a game and a stuffed animal, along with the prerequisite chocolate candies.

The bus then drives over to the Home Builders building and the party starts. More pizza than anyone could ever eat is waiting for the kids as they, remem-

bering Mr. Hicks's warning, walk into the building as quickly as they can. As the pizza is being eaten and the pop flows, a good time is had by all.

After the pizza is eaten, some children alternate with people from the Home Builders to lead Christmas Carols. However, the children's voices still carry a note of anticipation, there's still one very important thing to happen this trip.

And then it does, Santa arrives with Mrs. Clause following close behind. A reindeer is with them, as are two elves. The kids faces light up as they see Santa walking into the room, and doubtly so at the sight of the reindeer. Mr. and Mrs. Clause, along with the reindeer, who unfortunately isn't Rudolf, make their way to the stage.

Santa finds his seat on the bench, but there's a problem, Home Builders still has alot of presents to give away, so Mr. and Mrs. Clause help out, calling each student up one at a time to sit with Santa and get their gifts.

And these gifts are nothing to sneeze at either. Most of the boys got a CD player with a built in AM/FM radio, a book on paper airplanes, and a few got a 10 in 1 portable television, radio, mosquito repellant, flashlight, and many other things in one, camping tool. The girl's gifts were more along the lines of a stuffed animal, and an age appropriate gift, along with several smaller items.

Santa has one more surprise in store for Ryal's youth, a collection of animals who help him celebrate Christmas, including a pair of rabbits, a pair of birds, and an alligator, who looks suspiciously like Rudolph.

After the kids meet his animal helpers, it's time

for Santa, and for Ryal, to begin the trek home. The bus ride home is a time of excitement, everyone knows what they have and can't wait to play with it, but everything's stowed away and there's not enough room on the bus. When the bus finally arrives at Ryal, and the bags of presents are unloaded and passed back out, it's time to head home, ending the day of

fun, while Home Builders awaits most of the children again the next year. The fun they bring lasts all year long.

So in parting, all the kids who are attending Ryal now, and all who have done so in the past, wish to give a huge thank you to Mrs. Creekmore, and all of the Home Builders Association for the wonderful times, gifts, and perhaps most importantly, memories.





## Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference welcomes new bishop

OKLAHOMA CITY — On November 7, the Oklahoma Indian Missionary officially welcomed and installed Bishop Robert Hayes Jr. Bishop Hayes was elected and appointed to the Oklahoma Area this past July during the South Central Jurisdictional Conference.

Nearly four hundred OIMC members, representing every region and dozens of churches, attended the event, which was held in the Angie Smith Chapel on the campus of Oklahoma City University.

Prior to the service, a meal was shared by all those in attendance in honor of Bishop Hayes and his family. The Oklahoma City area metro churches assisted tremendously with the event by preparing many of the dishes that were served and by providing the volunteers to assist people as they came through the lines. Billy Hooton UMC, Angie Smith UMC, Mary Lee Clark UMC, Norman First American UMC, and Nagawee UMC each contributed to the evening.

This service marked the first time the OIMC conducted its very own installation service, which included conference leaders and members from all across the state.



"It was great to have the opportunity to welcome Bishop Hayes and his family to OIMC through this particular service," Wilson said. "It was important for the people of the OIMC to show Bishop and his family who we are as Native people through our fellowship and worship."

Members of the conference who participated in the service of worship were asked to dress in their tribal regalia. In addition individuals representing various ministries of the conference were selected to present Bishop Hayes with the signs of the Episcopal Ministry. Rae Kernell, Seminole of Billy Hooton, was selected to represent youth, Kaycee Kernell, Seminole-Creek of Pawnee Indian was selected to represent the Children; while Jason and Lynetta Eyachabbe of Norman First American represented young adults.

Female youth representatives from each region also had the opportunity to perform the Lord's prayer in sign language. Each youth was dressed in tribally distinct regalia representing primarily the Choctaw, Kiowa, Osage, and Delaware Tribes.

"It was important for all of us as members of this conference to demonstrate to Bishop Hayes who we are as Native people and as United Method-

ists," stated Rev. Chebon Kernell, Director of Interpretation and Promotion.

Also during the service blankets, were given to Bishop Hayes, his son Ryan and wife Dee, as a gesture of appreciation as they begin their ministry in the Oklahoma area.

The sermon for the evening was given by Bishop Hayes. "We can there, from Here!" was the title of the words of inspiration that was given by the Bishop. In his sermon Bishop Hayes expressed his regret that at the last Council of Bishops meeting there was no Native Bishop to speak on behalf of Indigenous peoples of this country. In addition, Bishop Hayes stressed that there is indeed a brighter day ahead for the people of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

"On behalf of the conference we want to thank every one who attended and helped out with the evening" stated Rev. Wilson. "I was overjoyed at how many people from across the conference came to the event. We planned for 200-250 persons and we estimate that at least 400 persons were present. I received an e-mail from a lay person in the OIMC who told me how great the event was. She said the event was very much us, as people of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference."

## Church Events

### 100th Anniversary Celebration

WEWOKA — Wewoka Indian United Methodist Church will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on December 19th beginning with worship at 10:30 a.m. led by recently elected Bishop Robert Hayes.

The morning worship will be followed by lunch and an afternoon of sharing stories and testimonies from past ministers and church members. The church will observe its annual Christmas Program at 6:30 p.m. The church is located one mile north of Yeager.

The church began in 1904 at a location north of the current church site. This church has served the community of Yeager and Holdenville with faithful service.

We cordially invite everyone to attend this historic occasion.

For further information contact Anne Marshall at (405) 328-0022.

### Annual Christmas Program

HENRYETTA — Little Cussetah Indian Methodist Church will be having their Annual Christmas Program on December 19 at 7 p.m.

The program includes: a Christmas Play; visit from Santa and Christmas Candy Sacks.

Everyone welcome to attend.

The church is located from Highway 75 north of Henryetta and south of Okmulgee take the Wilson Road exit going west (under the railroad tracks). At the first four way stop, turn north and go one mile. The church is on the next side of the road.

### New Year's Eve Gospel Singing

MUSKOGEE — First Indian Baptist Church will be having a New Year's Eve Gospel Singing on December 31st from 7 p.m. until 12 a.m.

The gospel singing groups include: Gospel Lights; Generations; The Newtons; Petit Family; Hammer Family; Friends of Jesus; Lakeside Singers and others. Hosted by the Gospel Lights and The Newtons.

The emcee will be Herb Billy and Curtis Kinney. Everyone welcome.

For more information call (918) 682-4703 or (918) 652-9959.

### Church holds dinner in honor of Barnoski

OAKHURST — The Barnoski/Peak families

gathered at the Indian Fellowship Baptist Church for the Thanksgiving holiday in honor of Corporal Phillip (Bugsy) Barnoski and his family.

He is married to the former Nicole K. Peak and has two sons, Damon and Lauren.

Corporal Barnoski is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. stationed at MCAS, New River, North Carolina. Barnoski will deploy to Iraq in March, 2005.

He is the son of Harold and Shirley Lena McBride of Muskogee. The event was hosted by Tracy Peak.





# Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the September 25, regular session.

## September 25, Regular session

Absent were: **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee District; **Robert Jones**, Okmulgee; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (19-2-0) TR 04-100, confirming the nomination of **Ken R. Davis** as the office of the Veterans Affairs Services Administrator of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

voting yes by district: **Tiger**, Creek; **Harjo**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Notaro**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

- approved (14-7-0) TR 04-104, confirming the nomination of **June Mustari** to serve on the Gaming operations authority board;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representative **Hufft** arrived before vote was taken;

- approved (22-0-0) TR 04-105, authorizing the speaker to execute a special counsel contract between the Muscogee (Creek) National Council and **Geoffery M. Standingbear**, P.C., attorney at law;

representative **Parish** arrived before vote was taken;

- approved (21-1-1) TR 04-106, confirming the nomination of **Christine Lewis McIntosh** to serve on the board of commissioners for the Creek Nation Indian Housing Authority;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek;

abstain were: **Ade**, Tukvptce;

- return to committee (23-0-0) TR 04-108, approving the selection of contractors for the rehabilitation of one (1) mutual help home and one (1) vacant mutual help home;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-110, establishing a Muscogee (Creek) Nation nurse investment and scholarship act and appropriating funds to fund purchase of 10 slots within the registered nurse program at OSU-Okmulgee;

- approved as amended (15-8-0) NCA 04-131, amending title 16, chapter four of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and amending and repealing certain laws to reorganize the existing

structure of lighthorse police;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**;

Speaker **Yahola** relinquished the chair to Second Speaker **Richard Berryhill** to address NCA 04-137;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-137, authorizing a special appropriation to the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard to participate in the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indians;

Second Speaker **Berryhill** turned the Chair back over to Speaker **Thomas Yahola**;

- approved as amended (18-4-1) NCA 04-141, authorizing a special appropriation to the Mvskoke elder council to attend and participate in the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.;

voting no were: **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

abstain were: **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representative **Wind** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 04-145, appropriating funds the purchase of a mineral interest on tribal property located in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma;

- approved (21-2-0) NCA 04-146, amending NCA 04-035 (a law of the Muscogee establishing the executive office reorganization act of 2004 and repealing NCA 96-18 (establishing the executive office reorganization act of 1996) and amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation code annotated (MCNCA) Title 21, § 2-102 entitled “appointment and term of office”) as amended by NCA 04-055 and NCA 04-059;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek and **Wind**, Okfuskee;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-148, authorizing a special appropriation for the fabrication and installation of sixteen (16) approved signing locations for entering and leaving Muscogee (Creek) Nation by Oklahoma Department of transportation;

- approved to postpone (18-5-0) NCA 04-149, authorizing a special appropriation to the Morris Indian Baptist church for the completion of the church;

voting no were: **Notaro**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Parish**, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-150, revising the FY 2003 Indian housing plan as approved by NCA 03-123 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the FY 2003 Indian Housing plan) and approving the corresponding 2003 line item budgets;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-151, establishing

the Oklahoma Tribal University Board of Regents and codifying said law in Title, 18, “Education,” of the code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

- approved to postpone (16-7-0) NCA 04-152, amending MCNCA, Title 21, § 3-103.J., and adding new law relating to management agreements;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;

- approved as amended (22-0-1) NCA 04-155, enacting a reintegration code and codifying said law in title 23, “Health and Safety,” of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

abstain were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-157, authorizing a special appropriation for a special counsel contract with **Geoffery M. Standingbear**, P.C., attorney at law;

## September 9, Extraordinary session

Absent were: **Harjo**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa; and **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

No legislation was acted upon.

Absent were: **Duke Harjo**, Creek District; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Rita Williams**, Okmulgee; and **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa;

This was a informative meeting to address State Question 712.

In attendance were: **George Tiger**, Creek District; **Roger Barnett**, Creek District; **Anthony Notaro**, McIntosh; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Sandra Parish**, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee; **Lena Wind**, Okfuskee; **Sandra Golden**, Okfuskee; **Robert Jones**, Okmulgee; **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Billy Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Shirlene Ade**, Tukvptce; **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptce; **Ronald Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner; **David Stewart**, Chief Executive Officer Cherokee Enterprises; **Chad Smith**, Principal Chief Cherokee Nation; **Mike Bailey**, Assistant Chief Choctaw Nation; **Scott Meacham**, Director of State Finance, State of Oklahoma; **David Happ**, Executive Director Chickasaw Nation; **Jim Gray**, Principal Chief Osage Nation; **Kenneth Chambers**, Principal Chief Seminole Nation; **Montie Deer**, Attorney General Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



## Tulsa District representative updates citizens

TULSA — First and foremost, I want to assure the tribal citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the National Council is working on your behalf and in your best interests.

I have been elected to serve as your council representative for three terms. I am currently serving on the Business & Governmental Committee, as well as the Fact Finding Committee.

I would like to recognize the leadership of the National Council that pertains to my duties as follows: Thomas Yahola – Speaker, Richard Berryhill – Second Speaker, David Nichols – Sergeant At Arms, Roger Barnett– Chairperson, B & G committee, George Tiger – Chairperson, Fact Finding Committee.

When we assumed office this term, the Principal Chief, Second Chief, and National Council Representatives were all administered sworn oaths to protect our Tribal Sovereignty. The state of Oklahoma is currently preying on Oklahoma's Indian Tribes to help fund programs that are under the state's control. They want us to pay a significant portion of our gaming and tobacco tax revenues to supplement their budget shortfall. To all Creek Nation Citizens, let me state that their Governor Brad Henry is the "reincarnation of Andrew Jackson". I will not



violate my sworn oath and vote to turn any Tribal funds over to the state regarding these issues.

As a Council representatives, I recognize the fact that you are my boss, and I am your servant. You elected me to represent your viewpoint and be your voice on the National Council. Accordingly, I work for my constituents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I welcome their calls, as well as yours regarding questions about the Creek Nation. My cell phone number is (918) 520-9154. I offer my services in the various areas of volunteering, providing rides, and donations. Just recently, I donated new office supplies in the form of a computer and a fax machine to the Oklahoma City Muscogee Creek Association to replace their outdated equipment.

I truly believe in authoring and sponsoring legislation that benefits our citizens in the following areas: education, health, social services, elderly nutrition, sound, viable, and feasible economic development projects, and increased veterans services for those who bravely defended and protected our individual freedom and rights. I cannot and will not support "pork barrel" legislation that benefits only a few.

We must all work together in a positive spirit of cooperation for our tribe to succeed. I pledge to all Tribal Citizens that I will serve you honorably and faithfully. I will work to the best of my ability with my fellow council representatives, the judicial, and the executive branches of our tribal government. I will monitor all branches of our government, programs and services and be vigilant on all the nation's resources, to do otherwise would be negligence on my part.

I sincerely wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May God bless you and yours.

Mvto!

Ronald A. Cleghorn, Tulsa District Representative Seat C.

## Soldier

continued from page 1

have a chance to watch it that late," said Wesley Montemayor, Leslie's father. "We were hoping to just get a recording of it and send it to her."

But long shot or not, Anderson decided it was worth a try. His tickets to the game had him sitting about 30 rows above the end zone. At halftime, he decided to move closer to the field in hopes of attracting a cameraman's attention.

"There was this nice guy who owned the whole front row, and he had one spare seat," Anderson said. "He said, 'This is your seat the rest of the game.'"

Soon, NFL Hall-of-Famer Lynn Swann, who was covering the game for ABC, walked by and saw Anderson. Swann called up to the production booth, and told them to get a cameraman to shoot the sign. And it happened.

Pretty soon Anderson was getting calls on his cell phone from family members in Oklahoma saying they'd seen him on TV.

And just as the game ended, he received word that his sign had made it halfway around the world. Leslie's mother called from Oklahoma to tell him that Leslie had awakened early to watch the game and had seen him on television.

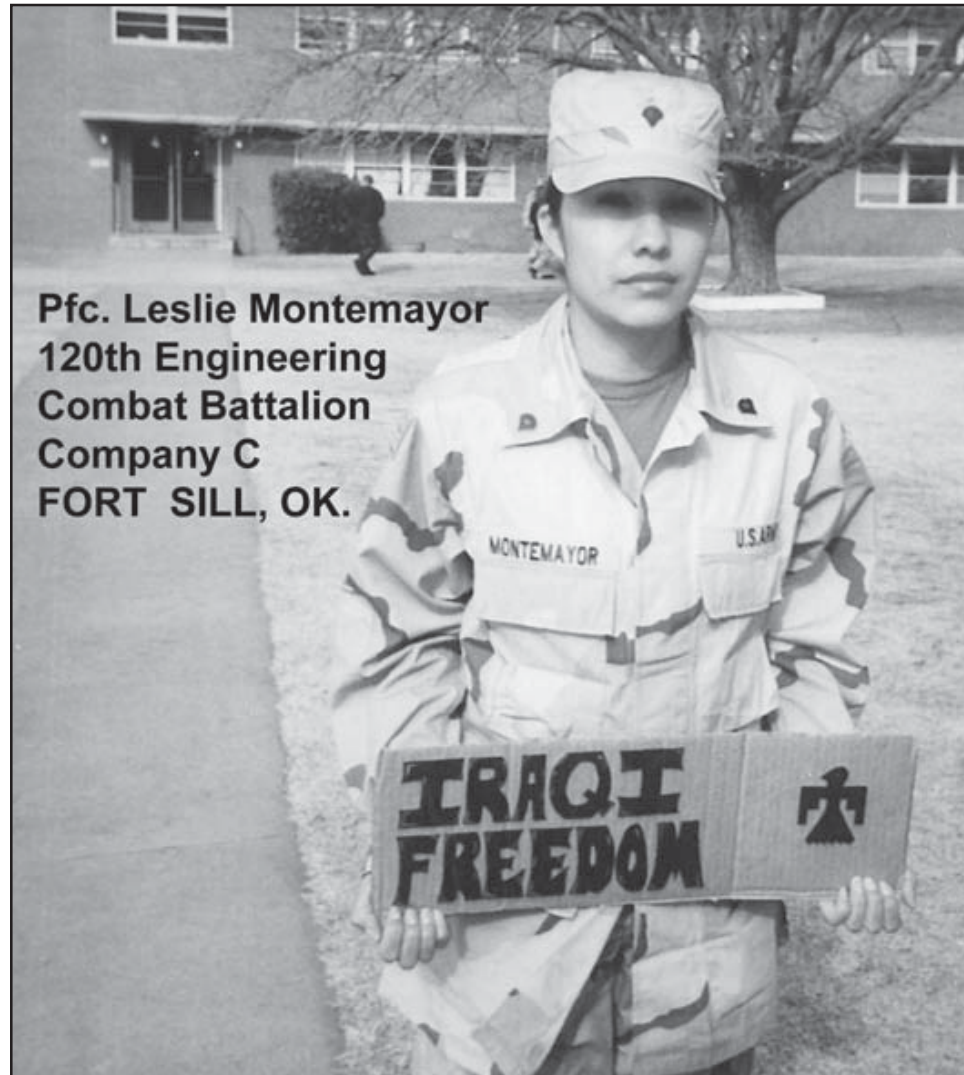
"She's been having such a hard time the last month. It's starting to wear down on her emotionally and physically," Wesley Montemayor said. "So I think that this was the Lord's way of giving her some encouragement to help her get over the hump."

Even more, the event helped him feel like he and his daughter were together despite the miles between them.

"Just getting to share that little moment with her, knowing she saw it the same time we did — that was really special," he said.

For Anderson, though, the whole series of events seemed too good to be true.

"It's one of those events that you look back and think, man, you couldn't have planned that any better," Anderson said.





Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

- Pediatric Dentist - Okmulgee Health Center
- Chief Financial Officer
- LPN - Okmulgee (Temporary)
- Interviewer Consultant - Tobacco Prevention Program
- Coding Specialist - CNCH
- Van Driver - Muskogee - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Twin Hills - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Weleetka - ENP (Part time)
- LPN - Eufaula
- Staff Dentist - Sapulpa
- Administrative Assistant - Sapulpa
- Dental Hygienist - Sapulpa / Eufaula
- CHR Generalist
- CEO - Creek Nation Health Care System
- Billing Technician - Finance
- Head Cook - Sapulpa
- Accountant - Finance
- Supervisory Accountant - General Ledger
- Pharmacist - Okmulgee
- Exercise Program Manager - Diabetes - Eufaula
- Exercise Program Manager - Diabetes - Sapulpa
- Data Coordinator - Diabetes
- Case Manager - Diabetes Program
- Radiology Technologist - Okemah

For more information, visit the Division of Health website at [www.muscogeehealth.org](http://www.muscogeehealth.org) or call (918) 756-3334.

Trade and Commerce

Trade and Commerce is accepting applications for the travel plazas in Okmulgee and Musko-

gee, Muskogee Document Imaging, and Farm Authority.

To apply come by the office, or download it in PDF format by going online at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov) and clicking on the link to personnel then clicking on the link to MCN Trade and Commerce. Mail your applications to:

Muscogee Creek Nation Trade and Commerce  
P.O. Box 117  
1010 East Eufaula  
Okmulgee, OK. 74447  
For more information please contact Alexis at 732-7764.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel

- Teacher:
- 1 position - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Holdenville Child Care
  - 1 position - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee Child Care
  - 6 positions - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Sapulpa Child Care
  - 2 positions - Muscogee Creek Nation Tulsa Child Care
  - 1 position - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Eufaula Child Care

Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent with four years related experience or C.D.A. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing. Must possess a valid drivers license.

- Teacher's Aide:
- 3 positions - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee Child Care
  - 3 positions - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Sapulpa Child Care
  - 3 positions - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tulsa Child Care
  - 3 positions - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okemah Child Care
  - 3 positions - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Holdenville Child Care

Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent and prior experience working in a day care / child care center environment. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing. Must possess a valid drivers license.

All jobs going through Personnel have Indian

Preference. For more information on any of these jobs, or to apply please write to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447. Or e-mail at [jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov) or call at 732-7827.

Tulsa Creek Indian Community

- Tobacco Coordinator:  
Duties include:
- Administer grant activities required by Creek Nation Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program,
  - Coordinate TCIC youth participation in at least two tobacco prevention activities during the year,
  - Coordinate TCIC member training in tobacco prevention / cessation methods,
  - Communicate program activities through a monthly article in the TCIC newsletter,
  - Plan and host two programs during the year where speakers give firsthand accounts about the effects of tobacco use,
  - Coordinate TCIC's prevention activities in conjunction with Creek Nation and Tulsa County health programs involved in similar efforts,
  - Compile tobacco prevention source materials from the internet, library, and other information sources.

- Youth Coordinator:  
Duties include:
- Coordinates youth night,
  - Contacts youth and / or speakers for monthly meetings,
  - Purchases and prepares refreshments,
  - Plans entertainment,
  - Transports youth,
  - Works with Budget
  - Includes preparation
  - Spending and accountability

Requirements for jobs in TCIC include passing a background check, a valid Oklahoma driver's license and proof of Creek or other tribal citizenship. For more information, contact Richard Anderson at (918) 298-2464..

*JOB ADVERTISEMENTS: The MNN is accepting job advertisements to run in the newspaper. If you or your company would like to advertise any openings, please contact call 732-7637 for information on rates or to place your ad.*



# Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Technology Services to begin work with U.S. Department of Energy

OKMULGEE – Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Technology Services Division was recently awarded a \$215,000 contract by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to replace fire detection system in various buildings at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, TX. Work is scheduled to begin on December 16.

Pantex Plant is America's only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly facility. It is located 17 miles northeast of Amarillo, TX and centered on a 16,000 acre site. BWXT Pantex LLC is an independent company formed solely to manage the Pantex plant. The company draws from the operational excellence and experience of BWX Technologies, Honeywell and Bechtel National.

The Amarillo Area Office of the Department of Energy (AAO/DOE) is the on-site DOE presence responsible for directing Plant operations. DOE's Amarillo Area Office (AAO) is one of six area offices

under jurisdiction of the Albuquerque Operations Office. Activated as a Branch Office in 1951, and upgraded to an Area Office in 1965, the office now has 78 employees and an annual payroll of more than \$4 million. The AAO is responsible for the successful accomplishment of DOE missions assigned to the Plant;

provides program management; and is accountable for critical functional areas that could affect the security, health, safety, and welfare of the general public. The AAO also administers the DOE management operating contract with BWXT Pantex.

"The Pantex facility has the highest level of security of any facility I have performed worked," said John Pritchard, Technology Services Operations Manager. "We are very hon-

ored to be selected to perform this contract." According to Michael Nalley, Director, "BWXT Pantex has a developed a 10 year \$750 Million capital improvement plan for the facility and we have a great opportunity to secure additional Department of Energy contracts."

MNBE Construction Services group is also negotiating a contract with BWXT Pantex for the application of a special flooring project at the plant. That contract is expected to be awarded at the end of December with a start date of January 2005.

## Document Imaging Company joins efforts with Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce

OKMULGEE—On December 9, the Muscogee Document Imaging Company and the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce joined efforts in promoting tribal business in a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held at the Muscogee Document Imaging Company headquarters.

"I believe we should be as intimately involved in communities as possible," stated Document Imaging Company Operations Manager, David Embry.



Photo Courtesy of the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce

## Muscogee Citizen interns with Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise through OSU Program

OKMULGEE — Muscogee citizen Keith Bunner was working on the grounds crew at OSU-Okmulgee and realized there were not many opportunities for him to advance and to increase the wages he earned. He was married and had one child to support and he knew the only way to make a change in his life was to find a trade he would like and go back to school.

Keith made a decision to enroll in the Construction Management Program at OSU-Okmulgee. "I chose OSU-Okmulgee to stay close to home and I chose the construction program for the variety of work that this education would provide for me and the ability to earn a good income for my family," said Bunner.

One of the requirements that must be met by a student in the Construction Management Program is to do an internship with a construction company for a period of time that ranges from two to four

months. Keith immediately went to Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to see if he could intern.

He met with Michael Nalley, MNBE Director, and Woody Anderson, MNBE Sales Manager.

"Keith came to us needing to fulfill a school requirement of serving an internship in our construction services division," said Nalley. "We saw it as an opportunity to help promote a tribal citizen and to also encourage him to complete the program so that when he graduated he could come to work at MNBE."

"Keith has done an outstanding job while serving his internship at MNBE," said Anderson. "He is always willing to learn. He will do well in this industry."

Graduates from the Construction Management program at OSU-

Okmulgee can expect career opportunities with general contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers or other industry related businesses. The degree program emphasizes supervisory, administrative and



Keith Bunner, MNBE Internship

management responsibilities coupled with technical hands-on knowledge. Graduates can qualify for positions such as office engineer, foreman, estimator, scheduler, expeditor, quality control engineer, inspector or independent contractor.

"MNBE will always be involved in sponsoring internships at the company for Muscogee (Creek) citizens whose field of study is in the area of construction and technology," said Nalley. "Our company feels very strong about the internships because it is important for our tribal citizens to know we support their efforts. It also helps to ensure we have tribal citizens who have the skill sets to be project managers."

"OSU-Okmulgee is an outstanding institution and we know the level of education our citizens receive will be first class," said Anderson.

Keith graduates in August and hopes to become a full-time employee at MNBE. He also dreams of owning a business someday. He and his wife Katura, now have two children, Erin and Kaili. Keith is a life time resident of Okmulgee and he is the son of Kenneth and Grace Bunner and is of the Bird Clan.



# Spotlight

"It feels good," he said. "It really makes you feel good when these kids are really doing better."

## The Season of Giving never ends

by Gerald Wofford

An old Indian story tells of a Church meeting on a cold, wintery night when the Pastor gave an invitation at the end of the service. No one came forward. Looking out at the familiar faces in the audience, the Pastor pretty much knew who was saved or who needed extra prayer. Everyone seemed to be okay.

The pastor then proceeded to another part of the service. A special call for everyone to give toward the building fund. "We need to start on building repairs this spring," said the pastor. "If we all start to give now, we will have enough by the spring." A basket was placed at the front of the podium for people to drop their offerings into at their discretion. The congregation gave as much as they could that December night. Each individual walked forward and put in what they could. After the service, the pastor and the treasurer looked at the amount given and knew it was a good start. They were then approached by a member of the Church who said, "Pastor, I want to give my all, everything that I have." The Pastor was happy and said, "great," but you don't have to give everything you have from your pocket." The member responded, "you don't understand Pastor, its not money I am giving you because I have none, but it is myself I am giving you. I will work and give you my all to help build the building the Church needs." The Pastor was impressed for he knew the poor member was trying to say that he really was giving everything, all that he had.

In 2001, a young man from Dustin decided to give everything that he had to try and help make someone's life just a little better. Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Eric Starr is a mentor with the John Crow Foundation, a nonprofit organization created to assist Native American youth in bettering their lives, both academically and socially. Starr is making sure the kids from the Dustin area not only get help with their schooling, but are positive contributors everywhere.

Its a week before thanksgiving and families everywhere are planning for the big holiday. The kids that are mentored and helped through the Crow Foundation, along with Eric Starr and other mentors, are planning to express their thanks. "The kids wanted to show their thanks and support of the troops in the Iraqi war," says Starr. "So we ordered flags and created cards and notes to send to them."

Starr says the gratitude was sent to all troops, but they were able to find Dustin alumni, such as Michael Dunson Jr. serving overseas. "The kids had a real good time doing this," says Starr. "They (kids) know what it is like to be helped and want to show their thanks as well."

The Crow Foundation is also helping the kids with another project. Many of the kids live in or around the Dustin-Hanna area. The kids try to find places to play, but often the local school area, where a lot of the kids go to play, closes and is locked up after five.

"We are going to help build a park and have equipment in Hanna," says Starr. "We have been raising money for this project. So far we have raised fifteen hundred dollars." Starr is also seeing that a similar project in Dustin also gets good treatment. "The one park in Dustin needs a new paint job and the kids are excited about helping out there as well."

Starr can truly say he has seen a change in the kids over the past three years due to the help he and other mentors of the Crow Foundation have provided. He knew it would be a challenge, but was ready to roll his sleeves up and get to work on a monumental and life-changing project.

"We have kids in our program now that at one time were wanting to be in gangs and were close to it," says Starr. "There wasn't any hope. Kids are going to try to connect or become a part of what they see. In this case, it was the gangs and that's terrible life-style!"

Starr talks about a meeting that he and the other mentors had with the parents and students of the community and the sparse attendance in the beginning.

"Last year, we had about 10 people show up for our meeting," he said. "But we wanted them to know we were here to help and let the kids know that there was a better life and better choices. In the span of that one year, the community has seen how much the foundation stepped up to that plate and that we weren't just a flash in the pan. The next year we had over 80 people show up

for the meeting. The kids, as well as the parents, are beginning to believe that we are here to stay. We see so much change in the kids. Their attitudes are better and their grades are better."

Starr admits that one of the true blessings in life is to see how much children can succeed when someone is willing to give of themselves and their time. "It feels good," he said. "It really makes you feel good when these kids are really doing better. I and all the other mentors will see the kids when we are visiting the school. We encourage them and give them high fives."

Starr is working his way through school and preparing to become a coach. His favorite sport to coach is basketball. Being a coach will be a goal of Eric Starr one day, but the mentoring part is something that he has down.



Eric Starr coached a high school girls team to a gold ball finish in last year's All-Indian March Madness Tournament. The team was sponsored by the Crow Foundation.



## Shop talk with Gerald

Happy Holidays to all! If this isn't the right time to be watching sports, then I don't know what is. College and NFL football games are heating up to a fever pitch and basketball is just starting to take off. The University of Oklahoma is in position to win another National Championship. Oklahoma has to play the perfect game against Southern California, especially in the pass coverage area. Many are saying this game has the same magnitude as the 1971 *Game of the Century* with Nebraska. Perhaps it will be the latest *Game of the Century* for these 100 years.

I know Christmas will have everyone around the tube for a glimpse at the Kolby vs. Shaq matchup. These two superstars will face each other for the first time since their professional divorce last June. What kind of greeting do you feel Bryant will get when he tries to drive the lane for the first time and the only thing in front of him is the 'Big Diesel', or whatever he is calling himself these days. I don't think a mistletoe will be in use for this encounter. Must see TV!

The game will start around 2 p.m. central time, during halftime or a long commercial break, fans might want to switch on over to ESPN. A Muscogee (Creek) athlete by the name of Brad Pemberton will be competing in the World Championships of Long Drive Golfing. Pemberton was featured in the February issue of the *Muscogee Nation News* and has been quite successful in his golfing ventures. The World Championships of Long Ball Driving is scheduled to air at 3 p.m. central time on Christmas Day.

Speaking of the long drive, which of course is hitting the ball a great distance, it would seem a logical and competitive step to the older athlete who may not be ready to hang it up. You know who you are. You were known to hit the ball really well in your day, but you know the game is for younger athletes, which you may not be now. And it does seem as though more and more Indian athletes are playing golf these days. A rather relaxing sports, it has just enough competitiveness to make it interesting and slow enough to keep one from being too exhausted.

Finally, a correction in the November issue of the *Muscogee Nation News* needs to be made. The sports article entitled Haskell University honors Euchee athlete included a picture with the name Simon Harry instead of Cecil 'Zeke' Harry. Harry's mother, Nancy Jo, wanted to say that although she agreed with the complimentary statements about her son in the article, she did not make the statement. The statement, "Cecil had the speed of a running back with the recklessness of Ray Lewis of the Baltimore Ravens," was made during the awards ceremony. So, we want to make things right for Harry's family. But hey, you know those Harry's, they're all good athletes. Keep sending us information about Creek athletes, we want to know!

## MNN Athletes of the Month: Rodney and William Bencoma

WELEETKA — A Muscogee (Creek) athlete can sometimes be too much for the opposition, but going against twice the amount can be a little overwhelming. Take the Bencoma twins of Weleetka for example. Twins Rodney and William Bencoma have been anchors for their football team, the Weleetka Outlaws, all season long. As a matter of fact, the Creek seniors have been anchors for the Outlaws all of their high school years.

This legendary high school football tandem led the Weleetka Outlaws to a second Class B State Championship on Saturday, December 4, at the Choctaw High School Football field, officially named the Bill Jensen Field.

The Outlaws soundly defeated Morrison by the score of 46 to 6.

Rodney, who plays quarterback, rushed for two touchdowns, one of which covered an amazing 56 yards, and passed for three.

Brother William, who plays the running back position, also captured the show by scoring three touchdowns. One of his scores was an impressive 77 yard punt return.

During this year's playoff run, the Bencoma Boys and the Outlaws team let their desire be known in how strong they wanted the title. Weleetka outscored its playoff opponents by a 200-14 point margin and scored at least 46 points in all postseason victories, capped by the defeat of Morrison, a team in which they were beaten by in last year's championship game.

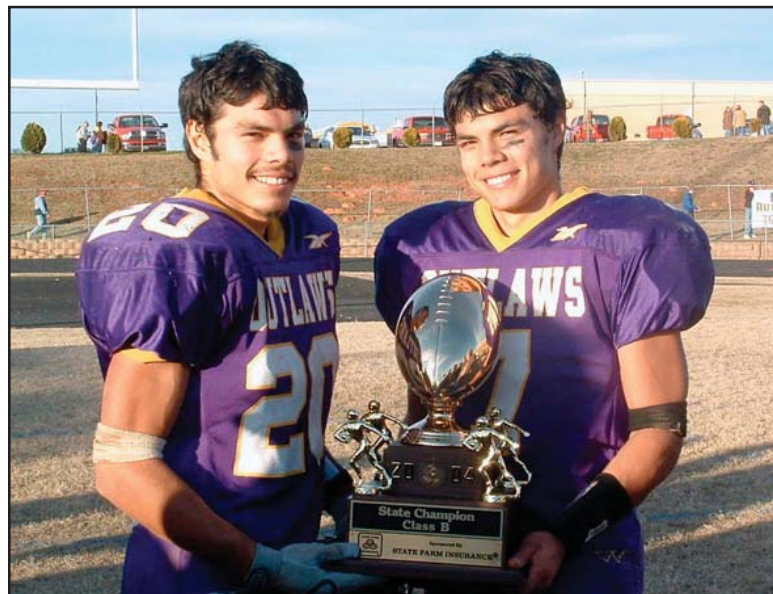
The Outlaws also won a State Championship the year before in 2002.

The Bencomas have been an important part of the Outlaws since they were freshmen. During their four year high school career, Weleetka had 47 wins and only four losses, including two undefeated seasons in 2002 and 2004.

Outlaw Head Coach, Tony

Hawkins, has nothing but praise for the outstanding Creek athletes. "They are great leaders!" Coach Hawkins exclaimed "They make everyone around them better!"

William and Rodney are certainly appreciative of the honors that have been given them. Their future plans are to attend college and continue in athletics.



The Bencoma brothers proudly display the Class B State Championship trophy after the Weleetka Outlaws soundly defeated Morrison 46 to 6.

## Littlebears contributes to Sapulpa winning

SAPULPA — Football season is over, but the accolades are just starting for the Littlebears of the Sapulpa Chieftains.

Brothers Brett and Patrick Littlebear both wear the Blue and Silver proudly and are big contributors to their teams.

Patrick is a sophomore at Sapulpa and Brett is a freshman.

Patrick saw lots of playing time for the high school team in the defensive secondary. Currently, he is part of the varsity basketball roster, but is gaining experience at the junior varsity level. A

position that Head Basketball Coach Brent Mackey sees helping Patrick be prepared for the High School game.

"Patrick has great talent and will only gain in experience and help the team out," said Coach Mackey.

Brother Brett had his share of playing time at Junior Varsity or ninth grade level. Brett led the team as a receiver.

The community has backed Patrick and Brett.

"They're not calling them the Chieftains, but the Sapulpa Littlebears," brags stepfather Ralph Gray.



Brothers Brett and Patrick Littlebear of the Sapulpa Chieftains are helping the Chieftains win this year. Coach Lee Wilson described Brett as "the team leader and took the team on his shoulders this year."



## Community sports news

### Watashe helps win football league championship

**STROUD** — Anderson Watashe plays for the Stroud Tigers 5th and 6th grade football team, which has won the 2004 Central Football League Championship for the third straight year. The team also won the 2004 Central Football League Division Championship. Andy's team played and won the league championship game on Nov. 6 and won in overtime with a final score of 14 to 6. Andy has seen action on both sides of the ball.

He was picked to play on the All-Star Team on Nov. 19 in Tulsa. He is the son of Ben and Paula Watashe, Sr. of Kellyville and Bess and Steven Franklin of Stroud.

### Caywood helps team to state meet at ORU

**TULSA** — Andrea Caywood, a sophomore at Mannford High School, ran for the varsity cross country team. Andrea helped her team qualify for the state meet at Oral Roberts University.

She placed at the following meets: Owasso, fourth; Edison, third; Memorial, fourth; Booker T. Washington, fourth; Cleveland, first; and ORU, 12th.



Caywood

Caywood is a member of the Hickory Ground

Ceremonial Ground and is a member of the Bird Clan.

She is the daughter of Andrew and Melissa Caywood of Mannford.

Maternal grandparents are Danny Lindsey of Dewar and Neomi Lindsey of Depew.

Paternal grandparents Sam and Susan Caywood of Mannford.

### Second Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament

**DEWAR** — Bacone College will be hosting this All-Indian March Madness Tournament College Prep Seminar on Wednesday, March 23, 2005.

All participants of the March Madness Tournament will be required to attend the seminar. This seminar will help prepare the Native American Youth for college life. All attendees have the opportunity for a 35% scholarship to attend Bacone in the fall.

Along with the seminar, Bacone is giving the March Madness Tournament Committee two additional scholarships. According to Jared Adair, Bacone College Representative, the two scholarship awards will cover 100% of tuition costs for a residential student for four concurrent years at Bacone.

For an entry form and scholarship application, contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 732-7634 or (918) 650-3920.

## 2nd ANNUAL ALL-INDIAN



### March 23-27, 2005

#### TOURNAMENT INFO

High School Ages: Boy's & Girl's  
Teams Must Be Community Based  
Dewar Gymnasium, Oklahoma  
Entry Fee \$150 (Non-Refundable)  
Three game guarantee  
Deadline is March 4  
24 Team Limit (12 Boys, 12 Girls)

#### AWARDS

1st Place - Gold Ball and Individuals Awards  
2nd Place - 12 x 15 Plaque and Individuals Awards  
3rd Place - 10 x 13 Plaque and Individuals Awards  
4th Place - 9 x 12 Plaque and Individuals Awards  
All-Tournament & Male and Female MVP Award  
Outstanding Offensive & Defensive Player Award  
East/West All-Star Game MVP

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

3-Point, Team-Ball & Slam Dunk  
East/West All-Star Game  
Two \$1,000 Scholarships  
Two Scholarships to Bacone College  
Contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 732-7634,  
after 5 PM (918) 650-3920 or lvmhe4@yahoo.com  
for an entry form or scholarship application.  
Scholarships are for graduating H.S. Seniors.

According to Ed Sheakley, Staff Member of the OSSAA, this tournament and all its events is in compliance with the OSSAA Amateur Rule.



## LARRY BERRYHILL

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Larry Dean Berryhill were held November 24 at Shurden Chapel with Rev. Mark Milligan officiating.

He was born June 28, 1949 in Henryetta to Delilah and James Berryhill.

Larry worked for Anchor Glass Company for eight years. He was a member of the Little Cussetah Church.

Berryhill was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Survivors include: three children, Catherine Ihloff, James Robin and Christopher Kyle Berryhill; three grandchildren; two brothers, Lucien and Prentiss Glen Berryhill; sister, Phyllis Berryhill; and a host of friends and other relatives.

Pallbearers were: Larry Arnold; Stephen Ellis; David Patterson; Billy Thompson; and Aaron Morris.

Interment was at Little Cussetah Church Cemetery.

## WILMA WASHINGTON

MUSKOGEE — Funeral services for Wilma Rowena Wolfe Washington were held October 28 at Bradley Belltower Chapel with Rev. Allison Phillips and Rev. Dale Carey officiating.

She was born in Wetumka on December 22, 1926 to Berty Wolfe and Augusta London Wheat.

Washington graduated from Bacone College in 1945 with a nursing degree. She worked at Oklahoma Baptist Hospital, Bebbs Flowers Nursery, York Manor, Heritage Nursing Home and retired as a private duty nurse in 1987.

Wilma played the piano, taught Sunday School, girls auxiliary, revivals and bible school. She was a member of Vann Lake Baptist Church of Porter.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Geneva Bonsack.

Survivors include: children, Genell Perez of Florida; JoLynn Smith of Enid; Joe Washington Jr., Sandra Carey, Janet Washington, and Leslie Deere, all of Muskogee; 17 grandchildren; seven

great-grandchildren; brothers, Lloyd Wheat Jr., Edmond, Jim and Roscoe Wolfe; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Honorary pallbearers were: Norman Daniels; Thompson Billy; Norman Carey; Charles and Keith Carpenter and Derrick Washington.

## Gratitude

We would like to thank the Arbeka Indian Baptist Church members for the wake service and funeral service they conducted. Also, the women for preparing and serving the food to the family and friends attending.

We extend a very special thanks to the BIA for helping with the funeral expenses and the Social Services Department for the food voucher.

Also, thanks goes to our friends, neighbors and others who donated food, money, cards, plants, flowers and prayers during our loss.

**Elsie Waters family**

We would like to express our appreciation for everyone that attended the services some came a long way.

**Alexander Brown family**

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to family, friends and neighbors. We thank Concharty Methodist Church for their services. We are sincerely grateful and thank those who brought food, sent cards, flowers and prayers during the loss of our loved one.

**Andrew Tecumseh Jr. family**

## Letters

continued from page 2

Citizens voices concerns

**Editor:**

I feel compelled to write this letter after reading the MNN, November 2004, Citizens Voices Concerns.

I resent any negativity toward Chief Claude Cox,

especially since he is deceased and we now have had several chiefs to compare with him. Chief Cox established most of the programs that we benefit from today, particularly Indian gaming.

The Muscogee (Creek) Constitution was signed into effect on October 9, 1979. (Allen Harjo was one of the signers.) If Mr. Harjo wishes to refer to our Constitution, he should familiarize himself with Article VI, Section 6. This is the authority exercised by the National Council on November 9, 2004.

During our service years together, Chief Cox and I would sometimes have different opinions on concern issues; however, we always maintained mutual respect. I believe Chief Claude Cox made more of a contribution to the Creek people than Mr. Allen Harjo.

I was surprised that Chief Ellis would allow a Deputy Director of his Administration to write such a letter.

Sincerely,

**Kenneth L. Childers, Sr., Coweta**

## Christmas outing

**Editor:**

The newly organized Okfuskee Este-Cate Vculke, Okfuskee Indian Elderly, recently had their Christmas outing on December 2. The outing included a dinner at the Golden Corral and attending the Shawnee Downtown Christmas Parade. We were fortunate that the City of Shawnee allowed us to park close to the judges stand so the Elderly could watch from the vans if it was too cold. We happen to park near a stand where hot coffee and cocoa was sold, so we took advantage of that.

We say MVTO to the Second Chief Alfred Berryhill and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Nutrition Program for the donations of funds and transportation, which made this a successful and memorable activity. This was the first of many activities we hope to offer the elderly residing in the Okfuskee District. There was eighteen Creek elderly that participated.

Sincerely,

**Mae Jackson, Chairperson Okfuskee Este-Cate Vculke**

## Native American Funeral Home

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(24 Hours)



Service with Love, Honor & Respect

H.D. & R. D. Griffin  
Indian Owned & Operated

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FLOYD E. RICHARDSON, (CHEROKEE) FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
JAMES ADELMAN, (CREEK) VICE PRESIDENT  
LARRY MARTINEZ, (CHEROKEE)

## Schumacher Funeral Home

Announcing

Two new additions to our staff with over  
80 years of combined experience to better serve you

**Bob McLemore and Patty Fletcher**

Honoring Native American Customs and Traditions

Tribal Burial Funds may include a complete Funeral  
Service at NO COST to Native American families

Two locations to serve your needs:

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Bristow, OK 74010  
918.367.2244

1321 W. Columbia  
Okemah, OK 74859  
918.623.1133



## EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

### National Lights on for Life Day

OKMULGEE — On December 17, as part of the national “You Drink & Drive, You Lose” campaign, the “Lights on for Life Day Project Under 21” is working to protect Oklahoman’s from impaired drivers during this busy time of the year.

The John Crow IV Memorial Foundation and the Club U21 members at Ryal, Graham, Dustin and Hanna Schools are asking everyone to leave their vehicle headlights on during the daylight hours in memory of those who have lost their lives to drunk drivers and as a reminder to never drink and drive.

Project Under 21 is a statewide law enforcement initiative geared toward educating and informing Oklahoma communities about the risks and consequences of under the age of 21 drinking.

### Performing Arts Center offers entertainment for the holidays

TULSA — Scrooge is back, along with the Mouse King! There are bells ringing and choirs singing, along with Kris Kringle and “Mr. Romance” on hand to awaken that dreamy winter wonderland feeling.

The Performing Arts Center’s roster of events is holiday heavy in December with entertainment to fit any busy schedule and pocketbook. For more information or photographs, contact Nancy Hermann, at (918) 596-2368 or [nhermann@cityoftulsa.org](mailto:nhermann@cityoftulsa.org).

Tickets may be purchased on-line at [tulsapac.com](http://tulsapac.com) or by phoning (918) 596-7111. The Tulsa Performing Arts Center is located at 110 East 2nd St.

### Pain seeks to develop American Indian Talent

CALIFORNIA — Duncan Pain, a record producer, is seeking Native American talent to develop.

“You probably don’t know the name, Darren Geffre, right? But 470,000 people do,” said Pain. “Darren Geffre is a Blackfeet recording artist. In 2003, Darren and his investor came to me and asked if I could develop Darren as a singer. They felt his talent hadn’t gotten him as much success as it should have. I listened to Darren, decided he did have talent, and I worked with him.

Geffre’s solo CD “Uncivilized”, has won the FAITA Award and has been nominated for another. His music video “Crab” has won the prestigious ISFV Image Award, in Wisconsin.”

Pain is now looking for another tribal member to develop. For more information contact Duncan Pain at (818)352-5977.

## Art Institute of Chicago opens new art exhibit

CHICAGO — The Art Institute of Chicago recently opened a new exhibit, entitled *Hero, Hawk, and Open Hand: American Indian Art of Ancient Midwest and South*. This exhibit was made possible by major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The exhibit opened in Chicago on November 20, 2004, and will be on view until January 20, 2005. Tim Thompson, Creek Nation Cultural Advisor and member of Hickory Ground, was privileged to be present at the opening of the exhibit and attended the pre-opening festivities.

The exhibit explores Midwestern and southern themes, assembling over 300 masterpieces of artwork made from stone, ceramic, wood shell, and copper. These pieces were created by artisans from the Midwest and south between 2000 B.C. and A.D. 1600. The exhibit includes sculptural forms that represent human, animal, and vegetable motifs, and it also includes composite imaginary creatures, abstract shapes, and embellished vessels, implements, and ritual paraphernalia. “This is an important exhibit,” Thompson noted, “because it lets people know that we really did exist in the southeast.”

To enable more Creek people to view these important pieces, it was hoped that the exhibit might be brought to a venue closer to Oklahoma, such as Tulsa; however, the closest place with sufficient space to house the exhibit was found to be in St. Louis. The exhibit will be opening to the public at the St. Louis

Art Museum on March 4, 2005, and will remain open there until May 20, 2005. It will be on view at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in late July through late September.

Richard F. Townsend, the director of African and American Indian Art at the Art Institute of Chicago, is the curator of this wonderful exhibit.

The exhibit received its name because of the recurrent forms of visual imagery found in the various diverse cultures found in the Midwest and south.

The cultures of the “moundbuilders” are explored through the identification and interpretation of the symbolic representations of these ancient societies, complementing what we know about them from archeological studies.

The themes of the exhibition center on the cosmic and social order of the societies of the ancient Midwest and south, the hunt and the animal powers, gods and heroes, the worship of ancestors, and the office of chiefs.

Special thanks for indispensable help and cooperation were given to Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Poarch Band Creeks, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, Choctow Nation, Seminole Nation, and Chickasaw Nation.

By logging on to <http://www.artic.edu/aic/exhibitions/herohawk/overview.html>, interested citizens may preview the exhibit.



Vessel in the Form of a Kneeling Female Figure.

## Indian rock band *Indigenous* to play in Tulsa

TULSA — On December 17, the American Indian rock band *Indigenous* will be playing at the Cains Ballroom.

*Indigenous*’ latest album captures the raw energy and the power that fans have come to expect from their live shows. Witness the incredible new single “C’m on Suzie” which truly showcases Mato’s remarkable guitar work and soulful delivery of a vocal hook. *Indigenous* is out now and will surely be seen as a career-defining album for this exciting young band.

Tickets are now available at the Cain’s Box Office at (918) 584-2306. Tickets may also be purchased at all Star Ticket Outlets, including Albertson’s, The Brady Theater, Drillers Stadium, The Wall in Bartlesville, and at Starship Records and Tapes. On-line tickets can also be purchased at [www.startickets.com](http://www.startickets.com) or by phone at 1 (888) 585-3737.





## Tribal representatives and citizens attend grand opening of National Museum of the American Indian

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A large group of tribal representatives and citizens attended the Grand Opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. Part of the grand opening festivities was the Native Nations Procession. Thousands of people, many in Native dress and regalia, walked in unison to the stage of the Grand Opening ceremony. The procession provided an enduring symbol for the dawning of a new era — the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.



National Council Representatives Jesse Kelley, far left, and Bill Jones, far right, along with Chief Ellis and his wife, middle, lead the proud contingency of Creek tribal representatives and citizens during the grand opening ceremonies.

## Chief Ellis accepts grant award from IHS for diabetes program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis accepted a competitive grant award from Dr. Charles Grim, Executive Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). The grant offered by IHS uses funds set aside from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to reduce risks for heart disease in the diabetes population.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was awarded the maximum amount of \$404,000 a year for the next five years. "I'd like to thank Dr. Grim for the opportunity to participate in the mission of this grant," said Chief Ellis. "I'd also like to thank and recognize the work of the Health System, in particular the Diabetes Program staff for writing the grant application."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was one of seven tribes in Oklahoma to receive a grant.



Pictured above, from left to right, are: Scott Robison, Charles Coleman, Johnnie Brausell, Chief Ellis, Dr. Grim, Victoria Lee, and Patricia Buckley.

## Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Cherokee Nation combine new business venture

MUSKOGEE—For the first time ever the Creek and Cherokee Nations are teaming up for a business venture pursuing call center contracts. Both Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Cherokee Connects, a majority-owned Cherokee Business, are in the call center contracting business, but the signing of a teaming agreement between the two entities will help them both.

"Instead of competing against each other, we have created a stronger business team that will be able to generate a lot more revenue than we would have if we had been working separately," said Chad Smith Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. "At the end of the day, we'll all come out ahead."

"Chief Smith has talked to me many times about becoming partners," said Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, "We realize that the impact that the two nations could have on Muskogee, Tulsa and this part of Oklahoma could be huge. I think the economy, not only for the two nations, but the economy of this area will improve immensely."

## Chief keeps promise, reaches out to tribal citizens



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis is greeted by Allen Mitchell of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association during a recent visit at the request of the association.



## Veterans Day Ceremony

November 10, 2004

"Armistice Day officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and a national holiday 12 years later. On June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans. In 1968, new legislation changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date."



Judge Moore, right, congratulates Loy Thomas for his service to our Country.



WWII Veteran Phillip Coon, bows his head during the opening prayer.



# Muscogee Nation News

## The Year In Review, 2004

## Tribe holds inauguration ceremony for newly elected tribal officials

OKMULGEE — A crowd of over 600 gathered at OSU/Okmulgee's Covelle Hall to witness the swearing in of A.D. Ellis into the office of principal chief at Saturday's inauguration ceremony.

Ellis, former second chief and national council representative, spoke on the direction his administration will take during his tenure as principal chief. Atop his list of priorities for the tribe includes economic development, education, and more employment opportunities for tribal citizens.

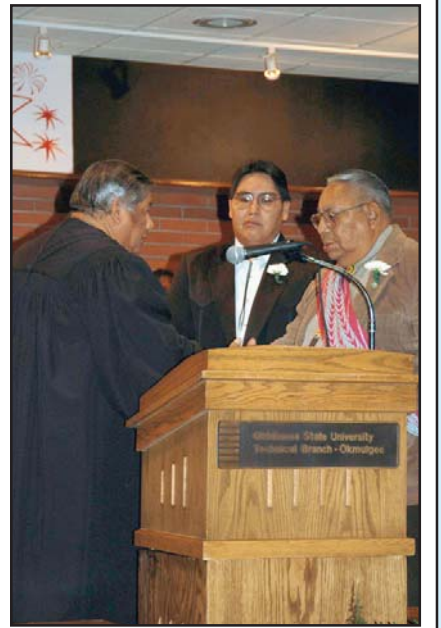
"I never dreamed I'd be in this position," stated Ellis. "But the majority of Creek citizens wanted me to be here." In fact, Ellis made history by being the first chief candidate to receive over 51 percent (1905) of the votes during the primary election, deciding the office of principal chief without a general election race.



Judge Amos McNac, far right, swears in the newly elected 2004 National Council Representatives.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief Justice Amos McNac, right, swears in A.D. Ellis as principal chief at the inauguration ceremony held at OSU/Okmulgee.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief Justice Amos McNac, right, congratulates second chief Alfred Berryhill after being sworn in.

## Chief Ellis gives state of the nation address

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis gave his State of the Nation Address at the quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council. Chief Ellis spoke on the tribe's present financial stability and future growth potential.

"Our accounting department system has always received the highest award from the federal government," stated Ellis. "This is the 12th year for us to receive this award. We were the first nation in the United States to receive this award."

Chief Ellis spoke about the financial growth of Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE), a tribal 8(a) company. "MNBE has a contract with Altus AFB for \$25 million over a 6-year period," said Ellis. "Presently they are repairing and replacing the roof and air conditioning of the existing casino. They will also be working on the \$1million sprung building in Tulsa. It is time the Muscogee (Creek) Nation should have our own construction company. We should be doing our own work, instead of paying out side companies to do our work. We need to circulate money within our tribe."



## Food distribution holds open house

OKMULGEE — In support of March's National Nutrition Month "Eat Smart, Stay Healthy" campaign, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program held an open house ceremony on March 30.

Food Distribution, which has been in operation for 22 years, provides commodity foods to households that must meet certain income guidelines and have assets within specified limits. The program service area includes: Creek, Okmulgee, Okfuskee, Tulsa, Hughes, Muskogee, corner of Wagoner, Mayes, and McIntosh counties.

## Creek Warrior close to retiring from boxing

OKMULGEE — After bringing so much pride, joy and just plain good fighting to local fight fans, BJ Wagnor is seriously considering calling it quits in the ring. Wagnor stated that he is 75% sure he will retire very soon from the sport of boxing.

"I have a lot of responsibilities in my life right now," said Wagnor. "I know there are other things in my life that certainly warrant attention, such as other career opportunities."

Wagnor's record has been very impressive, 500 wins and only 19 losses as an amateur.

